

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dingle**

Ref: **334**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **290**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **14/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	285	290

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Dingle is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 and was a delight to adjudicate. Thank you for this year's submission with its clear map and multi-annual Tidy Towns plan. The map would have been more helpful if projects for this year had been colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details in the entry form. Community involvement appears to be strong and we applaud your invitation to the community to 'have their say' on how they would like to see the Mill Bridge project completed and the circular on "How You Can Show Your Pride". We note the committee's use of social media as well as other forms of communication for Tidy Towns; your network of support groups and statutory bodies is noted also as are links with the schools. It is heartening to note the increase in community friendships due to participating in the Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on Dingle's participation since 1985.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The town features a handsome built environment of brightly painted shops and other business premises enhancing their respective streetscapes. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of much of the town and the high standard achieved for street furniture overall. With few exceptions laneways and other spaces between buildings are presented to a high standard too. Public buildings including the Library the Medical Centre churches and schools are all nicely presented and the murals at Scoil Iosaid Ris were admired. It is good to report on the widespread use of Irish language in signage; we wish you success on the proposed ten year plan for designation of Dingle as a Service town for the Gaeltacht.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Flower displays throughout the town were colourful and profuse and strategically placed for maximum visual impact. Roses placed along the barrier at the seashore across from Heaton's are a superb introduction to Dingle. Flowerbeds and shrubberies are a handsome feature also and green areas enjoy good maintenance. The use of recycled materials in landscaped areas is laudable as is the Seed Swap event organised. Newly planted trees in Disart Gardens are noteworthy and work to date on Mill area admirable. Remember to choose native species where feasible to enhance bio-diversity and plant for all seasons of the year particularly winter and early spring.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

Congratulations on the redevelopment of the Pier and the Marine car park; sculpture featuring a marine theme is a handsome feature of this area and Dingle. The pier and all foreshore areas / harbour were very clean and nicely presented in all respects; seated amenity areas are a welcome feature here. While the Mill project was still a work in

progress at the time of adjudication it was evident that a lot has been achieved here; landscaping, both permanent and container plants were admired; perhaps the old water pump will be restored also, we look forward to the completion of the water wheel. The Town Park looks a little unkempt with grass being a little too long and a litter bin broken and a lot of bags awaiting collection, some cans and bottles were noted also. A new sign should be featured for the interpretive panel on the bylaws or the existing one refurbished the three new picnic tables are favourably noted. Well done on involvement on the "Gardening for Wildlife Workshops", the Water Quality Workshop and the Bio-Diversity Weekend and much more!

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Enclosure to the recycling point is excellent and it is maintained in a tidy manner with the small exception of a little necessary weeding. It is good to note Dingle's water management initiative with water from the Mill river used to water the town's landscaped areas. The committee might now consider an energy saving initiative? the 'Food Waste' aspect of the Food Festival is invaluable and we note your many recycling / re-use activities including the 'Repair Café'. Are the schools involved in the Green Schools programme?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is very good in Dingle's town centre with few small lapses here and there along Main Street. Congratulations on your involvement in An Taisce's "Think Before You Flush Campaign". The 'Dog Loos' project is intriguing, keep us up-dated on its effectiveness. We note the involvement of volunteers from Dingle in the beach and Coastal Area clean-ups organised by Dingle Aquarium. It is good to report the segregation of litter for recycling. Let us have details in next year's submission of litter management practices in the town.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The small Dóirín residential development is charming in how it sits unobtrusively into the heart of Dingle and enjoys an excellent presentation. Resident's associations for all estates are noted, no doubt there is a good working relationship between these and the committee. Remind residents of the need to maintain their roadside boundary walls to the same high standard as their dwellings and gardens and roadside areas to these where necessary. We wish you every success in tackling the issue of vacant properties.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Road and footpath surfaces are quite good throughout Dingle and allowances have been made for work in progress; most items of street furniture look well with the exception of one are two bins and benches in need of refurbishment. Natural stone walls throughout the town and on approach roads are a handsome feature of Dingle; roundabouts are nicely landscaped particularly on the entrance from the Tralee Road, green areas here are impressive also for their maintenance. well done again for work accomplished at the Mill project, a fine achievement.

Concluding Remarks:

Dingle appears to be a fun place especially for youngsters and families and there is a lot to enjoy. Visual amenity is strong too with a plethora of nicely painted buildings, attractive shopfronts and landscaped amenity areas; a fine overall presentation!