

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lauragh**

Ref: **344**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **266**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **28/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	450	259	266

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Lauragh is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017; thank you for your continued participation since 2005, it this adjudicator's first visit to Lauragh however previous adjudicators will have enjoyed the experience just as much as this year's adjudicator. The problem with the confusion noted regarding the location of the village is probably due to poor / inadequate road signage en route and perhaps signs hidden by foliage. The map provided showed all the elements of your charming village and its environs very clearly and was easy to follow; it should also have shown projects completed for this year's adjudication (not work completed in previous years) colour-coded and linked numerically to details in the entry form. Thank you also for your Three-Year Tidy Towns Plan; it will need to be updated soon notwithstanding the fact that many of the projects by their nature are repeated each year. The committee have created a good network of support groups, have close links with the National School and a range of communication methods to help the task of Tidy Towns plus a volunteer base of 20+ to call upon as necessary all of which is indicative of good community involvement.

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

Congratulations on work accomplished by Kerry CoCo and Irish Water between the church and the Post Office which has resulted in the opening up of the turn between the school and the Community Centre. Work at Lauragh bridge and between Lauragh Cross and An Sibin in previous years continues to look well. All buildings within Lauragh were well presented and the new addition in Derreen Gardens is favourably noted. It is wonderful that both the An Sibin premises and the Garda station have been lovingly restored and occupied once more. The maintenance of roadside edges and boundaries are important and laudable activities.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Container flower displays add colour and are attractive to pollinators if the right species are chosen. The committee might consider a pollination project for next year, the school children could be involved also. Too often containers are left bare in winter and spring; these should be planted for year-round interest and colour and native species chosen where possible. The planned picnic area is welcome. Any maintenance activities undertaken for trees, flowers and shrubs should be included under this heading for next year's competition.

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

The wildlife status of Lauragh is undoubtedly high given its excellent location; it is wonderful that the white tailed sea eagle is thriving in the area and that information is available in Pedals & Boots. We would like to know what else you have so why not undertake a wildlife survey and publish the results on interpretive panels installed at a variety of

locations throughout the village and environs. A small start could be made with asking residents to note bird species in their gardens and the school children to note bird species in the school grounds. Drawings can then be produced and published on information panels or leaflets.

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

Well done on the maintenance of Lauragh's recycling banks however this section of the competition is about prevention of waste at source and resource management so for optimum performance take on some projects that fit under one or two of these headings. Water harvesting might be a good place to start and perhaps a community travel initiative for energy management. Prevention methods can include 'Food Waste Prevention'. Consult www.locationprevention.ie to see what other communities are doing.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Lauragh's participation in the National Spring Clean is commendable as are the regular village clean-ups. Do you know the source, type, frequency of occurrence and location of the litter? Armed with this type of information it may be possible to devise a 'prevention at source' strategy that will then cut down on the number of litter picks necessary. Hopefully all litter collected is segregated for recycling. It is a pleasure to report that Lauragh looked very clean and tidy during adjudication.

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

The main emphasis here is to encourage residents to present their dwellings and their private open space and roadside boundary walls to a high standard of presentation at all times; any communal areas should be maintained neatly also. There are no estates in Lauragh and very few dwellings and those that do form part of the community are thankfully well presented.

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

Roadside verges within the village community enjoy good maintenance. Road signs are well presented too; it is important to ensure that all of these especially name signs and finger post signs are visible and not obscured by foliage as there are very few landmark buildings within the area to facilitate the first time visitor's negotiation of the area.

Concluding Remarks:

Lauragh is a very dispersed village which does not have a strong 'sense of place' for a visitor new to the area. There are many ways of addressing this problem and two Cork communities that have done this successfully are Rathbarry and Coolagowan. The committee might like to consult with their committees to see how they have developed a 'strong sense of place' for their villages.