

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tarbert**

Ref: **350**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **306**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>306</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Tarbert is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017, thank you for your submission with three-year Tidy Towns Plan and map. The latter was clear and easy to work from however it would have been perfect if projects had been colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details in the entry form. It is good to note that the Tidy Towns reports are used as a basis for identifying projects to incorporate into your plan. The network of support groups for Tidy Towns work is wide and involvement of the two schools laudable. Congratulations on Tarbert's long track record in the Tidy Towns Competition and all that has been achieved as a result and thank you for your continued participation.

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

Public buildings within Tarbert are nicely presented. The church and its boundary walls look really well as does the adjacent graveyard with its boundary walls which enjoy good maintenance. The Community Centre beside the church appears to have been refurbished also and path to the Resurrection monument is beautiful. The school and its grounds are neatly managed. A low rusted roof to some premises along the Main Street could be refurbished (it seems to be a motor/garage premises). Congratulations on the development of the Sensory Garden with its excellent features. The completion of Phase 1 of the Memorial Plaza is laudable and the seven yellow roses are a poignant touch. The Grotto in the Square looks well as always.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping on the entrance from the Limerick Road is superb including the Sensory Park noted above. Container flower displays throughout the village are colourful, profuse and strategically placed for maximum visual impact; permanent flower and shrub beds play their part too in the appearance of Tarbert. The water treatment plant is well landscaped and will soon not be visible from the road. A green seated amenity area located across from the Bridewell was admired. Forge Park with its tree wood carvings are noteworthy features and the Fairy Trail in the Woodland Walk is appealing in so many ways. We look forward to the further development of the Presbytery Walled Garden now that it is being managed by the Tidy Towns committee.

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

We eagerly await the completion of the bio-diversity plan currently being prepared and the publication of the feasibility study for the Green River and the John F Leslie Wood Walk; congratulations on the Gold Award in the Kerry Community Awards for your work on the Biodiversity Plan. The recently sown Bee Meadow mix on the Ferry Road will provide admirably for pollinators; how fortunate this area was dug up for pipe laying which allowed the

seeds to pollinate. The natural grass verges on the Limerick entrance will provide for pollinators too. Quite a lot of Montbretia in the roadside verge on the Limerick Road was noted; although this is a pretty plant it should be contained to existing sites as it is a naturalized invasive and will compromise native species if allowed to spread unchecked. The interpretive panel for 'Birds of Tarbert' should be refurbished. The children's playground is nicely managed. Well done on the creation of the Bird Hide and the replacement of the QR codes in the Wood Walk. 'Fingers crossed' for the Bat boxes and well done yet again on the Bird boxes; a species identification of the visiting birds might now be undertaken.

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

The recycling / reuse of many materials in amenity developments throughout Tarbert is commendable. Tarbert's water management initiative featuring the installation of water butts at four locations around the village for use in watering flower containers and beds is an excellent example of the efficient use of this valuable resource. Some thought might now be given to an energy saving project. The village is well on the way to becoming self-sufficient in compost having only purchased one bag in the past year! Impressive! It is good to note the growing from seed and cuttings many of the plants used around the village. The recycling point is well-managed. Consideration might also be given to participation in the Green Homes programme.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Hopefully the discussions with the Local Area Engineer in relation to the development of the Square will be fruitful in reducing / eliminating the visual clutter associated with the overhead service cables in the village centre as the wirescape is probably the most noticeable element in Tarbert's streetscape. Litter control is very good and regular litter picks are noted; has the litter collected been analysed for its source, type, frequency and distribution? Armed with this information it may be possible to reduce litter at source with an appropriate strategy. Perhaps a website strategy to complement the letter drop to residents (or instead of ) might be effective especially if targeted at offending groups. The committee's pro-active approach regarding sign clutter throughout the village is admirable.

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

A few roadside boundary walls to dwellings within Tarbert are in need of attention and some roadside areas to boundary walls; these should be maintained to the high standard achieved for dwellings. The Hazelbrook development looks quite well and there are some beautiful gardens however it still seems unfinished to its inner areas, hopefully this will change with the sale of two dwellings, it's roadside presentation is excellent; Doonard Crescent was admired too. The attractive residential development beside the Bridewell is also visually appealing. Gardens to the rear of premises along the Main Street which can be viewed from the estuary approach road are an excellent introduction to the Tarbert. Fruit trees and bushes planted in two estates will delight as they mature, especially the apples which look so lovely in the spring; commendations to all concerned. Well done also on representations to Irish Water regarding the rusted pole.

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

The southern entrance to Tarbert is nicely landscaped, features good signage and nameplates and generates a very good first impression of Tarbert. The entrance from the R551 is less impressive notwithstanding the good presentation of residential properties and the new village boundary on this road. The road by the Comprehensive School badly needs remedial work. Road and footpath surfaces throughout the village itself are generally good as is the road and footpath along by the estuary. Car parking at the playground and the recycling point appears to be adequate; the car parking area in the Square could be refurbished and parking should be restricted to one side of the road where space is limited.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Congratulations on a fine performance this year with many new community amenities, we anticipate further pleasing developments to adjudicate upon in future years.