

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville**

Ref: **352**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **295**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **23/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	288	295

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Waterville is very welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 and we thank you for your continued participation. We did not receive a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan with this year's entry and the map submitted would have been more helpful if projects worked upon for this year were located on the map colour-coded and linked numerically to details in the entry form. The Tidy Towns website and Handbook have guidelines on these requirements for your convenience. Strong links between the small committee of three and a wide network of groups with a commitment to Waterville is acknowledged as is the sizable number of volunteers available for help; the use of social media in addition to traditional communications to spread Tidy Towns news and events is noted favourably together with your school liaison officer. The Best Presented initiative is fruitful in its results.

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

The majority of buildings are nicely presented and there is a considerable amount of handsome stonework featured. Both the Crescent Tea Room and An Tigin Crafts and Gifts look really well. Other buildings admired include Sea Lodge, Bayview Hotel, The Lobster, the Villa (especially) the gable wall here, High Tides, Fisherman's Bar, The Butler Arms Hotel and its gable wall however the roadside retaining wall to the car park should be whitewashed. The Skellig Gift Store and car park is a nice roadside development and the Old School House looks as though it has been recently whitewashed; the Garda station as always looks well. The removal of the redundant pole and refurbishment of street furniture in addition to new seating all enhance the streetscape together with well-presented buildings. Hopefully remaining overhead service cables and associated timber poles will be eliminated in the not too distant future.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Landscaping in stone enclosed beds along the roadside is a nice feature and grassed areas along the promenade enjoy good maintenance; the new sculpture is applauded. The variety of memorial 'Parks' in the greens on the promenade is a nice touch and as always the Charlie Chaplin Walk impresses yet again. Information panels are interesting and helpful. The water fountain installed in the Community Garden as a memorial to those lost to suicide is poignant. The removal of planters since last year is noted. Guidelines for landscaping include; planting for year-round colour and interest; permanent plants rather than bedding plants; native species rather than non-native to support wildlife in general and pollinators in particular. It is also important where possible to incorporate universal access into existing and planned amenity developments.

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

Congratulations on your Three-Year Pollinator Plan for Waterville, this is a fine initiative, also invaluable is work on the eradication of Japanese Knotweed which is vital for the future of bio-diversity in Waterville. The promenade and the foreshore area are both beautifully presented. The wildflower site / pollinator garden on the Sneem embankment is applauded as is the Butterfly Garden at the tennis courts. Improved access to the lake enhances the recreational amenity status of the village. It is good to note also the public information stand on the theme of how to cultivate your garden for wildlife, no doubt these will increase now over the coming years; the talk on bees and their habitats will also heighten public awareness of wildlife together with environmental workshops for the public in bio-diversity week. Wildlife signs installed are noted. The management of the sport and leisure centre is good.

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

As you are aware this section of the competition is about waste prevention at source and the efficient management of water and energy resources. In the selection and presentation of projects on which to work try to choose those that fall into these categories and quantify results for feedback and motivation. We note a variety of recycling initiatives in addition to your poly-tunnel. Also noted favourably is your 'Plastics Free July Event', you can measure savings that resulted from this initiative which could serve to do it again; the Microbeads workshops are invaluable too.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is really good in Waterville, none was noted on adjudication day. Participation in the National Spring Clean and regular litter picking in the village and on the beach, is paying dividends. Construction work in progress was the source of some untidiness however we know this will be righted upon completion of works. Well done on this year's focus on improving un-used and derelict areas of the village, this will make a significant contribution under this heading. Overhead service cables are a notable feature in some sections of the town hopefully the timber service poles will be replaced with attractive lamp standards and cables ducted.

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

Klondike residential is a fine development and nicely landscaped however there does appear to be an over reliance on Montebrecia which is an invasive plant so try to contain it as if left unchecked it will undermine native species. Residential developments are all nicely presented, a few boundary walls here and there need attention but overall are good as are green open spaces. Natural stone boundary walls were admired. The 'Best Presented' initiative is playing an important role in residential areas.

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

Good use is being made of the charming old-fashioned telephone box with its script 'as gaelige' now housing a defibrillator. The public toilet block looks well both on the outside and within. There are some fine stretches of footpath but also stretches that need refurbishment. The road surface is quite good and well lined. Seating, road signage and road signs seem to be plentiful and in good condition. Handsome natural stone walls line the road at the Sneem entrance to the village which create a good first impression. Well done on improvements to the slipway access to the beach. The Welcome signs are welcoming with their good maintenance.

Concluding Remarks:

Your adjudicator spent a very pleasant time in Waterville exploring all it has to offer the visitor and residents; all involved in refurbishments at any level are applauded for a job well done.