

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballygawley** Ref: **2097**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **246**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	29	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27	28
TOTAL MARK	450	241	246

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

It is many years since this adjudicator was in Ballygawley: the appearance of the village has certainly improved enormously, due undoubtedly to the inspirational influence of this committee as well as the work of residents, and that is the main element of his competition; of the others areas of importance the intention has always been that the competition should bring people together to share objectives and so there is a social significance which, judging from your entry form, is intuitively implemented. It certainly seems to be a disadvantage in not having a local school – but this may not be an entirely negative fact and will be referred to again below. Perhaps you need a closer connection with the Local Authorities, and perhaps a 3-Year Action plan would create incentives. Aside from all that, the village was looking quite delightful on the date of the visit, which is the most important thing. Thank you for your diagrammatic map which was most helpful. Marks are allocated on the basis of significant improvements on the previous year.

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

Both O'Kelly's and Callaghan's are brightly painted and give a very good and lasting impression of the village. The McTiernan filling station with the shop and post office are well presented. Although there is no school in the village presumably the children attend the school in Kilross, which was looking well.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

A motor mower was busy at the time of the visit on the extensive green by the road you describe as 'the old unused road'. It looked as if impressive work was starting in and around the spacious Sports Centre. Good luck for this project. The road leading to the derelict estate was beautifully planted with shrubs and perennials, the seating under the spreading chestnut tree at Kelly's was just charming. Young trees were seen to be thriving on the Colooney road and also by the road to Sligo. Imaginative plantings were very favourably notes, such as the 'wishing well' and the use of tree stumps.

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

Good luck for your new planting scheme in the bog area. The adjudicator wondered which hill is referred to in Yeats' lines "I am older than the eagle cock...on Ballygawley hill" and if Bird Watch Ireland www.birdwatchireland.ie would be interested in discussing the reinstatement of the eagle here.

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

You were advised by last year's adjudicator to consult www.localprevention.ie and www.greenhomes.ie - you don't

say if you did so, or if you found them to be of any help. If any of your children attend Kilross NS they would certainly be involved in its Green Flag programme and therefore you should list their achievement in, for example, water conservation – not merely to gain additional marks but to become involved under this increasingly important heading. If, on the other hand, they attend school in Colooney, there are similar Green Flag school programmes there, and the children must certainly be bringing home the knowledge that stems from participation. Do ask the children about this and if the answer is positive do become involved with whatever schools they are attending. It is good to read that you bring unwanted green waste to the Ballisodare composting unit; have you considered creating your own compost and using it in floral containers and beds?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It has been decided to consider derelict housing under this heading rather than under 'Residential' (below) because to do the latter would be unfair to the people of the thriving estates as it would decrease their mark. It is extraordinary that an abandoned scheme of a dozen potential homes should have remained so for so long, and is clearly not getting any better; it is also extraordinary that this should be the case during a national housing shortage. Presumably you have made your submissions to the proper authorities in regard to its reinstatement, but for the present it casts and undeserved blight on the village, fortunately not in a conspicuous spot. A neglected gate and entrance on the right as you come from Sligo needs attention. Litter control was very good on the date of the visit. Congratulations to those who do the weekly litter picks, the grass cutting and the sweeping so thoroughly. It was also good to learn that you take part in the annual national clean-up that takes you far outside the village centre.

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

In spite of some stained boundary walls Ríocht na Sí this is a well kept residential area with a fine green and attractive wooden fencing. Exceptionally pleasant homes with charming front gardens were seen in a quiet cul-de-sac facing a pleasant meadow where, on the date of the visit, mowing and baling had taken place. A suggestion for the comparatively dreary end to this road: plant a hedge or tall growing shrubs – there is obviously ample hedge and shrub-planting expertise in the village – and paint the gate in a bright colour. Attractive individual residences were seen in the neighbourhood.

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

In spite of some stained boundary walls Ríocht na Sí this is a well kept residential area with a fine green and attractive wooden fencing. Exceptionally pleasant homes with charming front gardens were seen in a quiet cul-de-sac facing a pleasant meadow where, on the date of the visit, mowing and baling had taken place. A suggestion for the comparatively dreary end to this road: plant a hedge or tall growing shrubs – there is obviously ample hedge and shrub-planting expertise in the village – and paint the gate in a bright colour. Attractive individual residences were seen in the neighbourhood.

Concluding Remarks: