

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymote** Ref: **746**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **265**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	37	35
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	24	25
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>265</b>

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

It is several years since this adjudicator was in Ballymote and a number of improvements immediately attracted the attention. You are especially rich in parks and formal planting. There appear to be thriving new industries and the businesses lost during the recession seem to be being replaced by others: we hope this trend will continue. You mention that you have lost some of your elder members. It is essential that you recruit young people and it is good to read of your involvement with schools. Consider creating a Junior Tidy Towns – this has proved to be popular elsewhere, in some cases eventually taking over the work of their seniors to good effect. Your proposed Plan is only for this year and next – most committees provide plans for a longer term to give themselves a better chance of completing each project and they also provide a year-by-year list of annual goals: there is nothing like setting deadlines for each venture to encourage action and enthusiasm. Marks are awarded on distinct improvements on the previous year. Please write replies on the entry form under the proper headings – for example, the interesting paragraph on the parks and planting should appear under “Landscaping” rather than “Streetscape”. Thank you for your very helpful map.

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

While the central streets are still in need of improvement – some less well-kept structures unfortunately catch the eye more readily than the well-kept, and the overhead cables with the old-fashioned poles on most of the main thoroughfares remain an eyesore – the majority of the business premises impress; but it is the individual buildings that really do best, and these are the two handsome churches, the Ophardt factory, the reconditioned Cinema, Spraoi, the Coach House Hotel and the two recent buildings which some may consider to be visual intrusions but are nonetheless very imaginative architecturally, the Garda Station and the Fire Station. Extensive work was seen to be in progress on a handsome building opposite the Cinema. Factory premises near the railway station were well looked after. The most attractive and successful urban space is the Railway Station itself with its platforms and forecourt – a handsome well-maintained building, fine stone boundary walls, delightful planting and clearly-marked car park.

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

How fortunate the people of Ballymote are with the extensive public park continuing north and south throughout the town! with its mature and young trees, fruit trees, shrubberies and smart greens. As part of this sequence, the Commemorative Garden was admired; so were the adjoining and really beautiful gardens of the Sisters of St Joseph. The well-laid-out surroundings of Cúan Íosa and the garden at the equestrian sculpture were also admired. The cemetery is well kept. Container planting and window-boxes were favourably noted here and there. Well done in your widespread work.

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

It is good to read of your extensive nature walks. It is favourably noted that you are working with [www.naturelearn.com](http://www.naturelearn.com). With such a prominent river and so many nearby lakes one wonders if you are in communication with the Inland Fisheries Board who can be very helpful. The wild life component of the town benefits greatly from so much well-established tree planting and from neighbouring hedgerows. Good luck for your entry for the Water and Communities award. You mention projects originating in the Library: in your next submission can you please give a list of those that are appropriate, not merely as a means of achieving additional marks but to demonstrate interesting and possibly inspirational activities.

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

It is good to read of your extensive nature walks. It is favourably noted that you are working with [www.naturelearn.com](http://www.naturelearn.com). With such a prominent river and so many nearby lakes one wonders if you are in communication with the Inland Fisheries Board who can be very helpful. The wild life component of the town benefits greatly from so much well-established tree planting and from neighbouring hedgerows. Good luck for your entry for the Water and Communities award. You mention projects originating in the Library: in your next submission can you please give a list of those that are appropriate, not merely as a means of achieving additional marks but to demonstrate interesting and possibly inspirational activities.

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

Litter was seen in the verges of the Back Road; this is an area that badly needs attention from the owners of some of the properties and more especially from the local authority; there are some quite ramshackle structures and improved paving and surfacing are badly needed. There was long standing builders' debris at an unnamed estate off Keenaghan road. A highly disreputable unfinished estate was seen off the Kesh road. Undoubtedly you are using your influence to have all these properly attended to. It has been decided to include abandoned or uncompleted housing under this heading as it would be unfair to householders in well kept neighbourhoods if there were to be a reduction in marking there. Because general tidiness and litter control come under the same heading it may appear that the fine work by voluntary helpers in litter picking has been ignored: this is not so. It is hoped that when the categories are re-defined this coming autumn 'Tidiness' and 'Litter Control' will be renamed as separate headings. The regular litter patrols have made their mark and those who take part deserve the unstinting praise of the community.

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

As with other towns and villages, Ballymote derives its character from its traditional houses in the main streets. These were seen to be generally well presented, and some presented with real pride where renovations had taken place in the time-honoured urban style on Teeling Street, O'Connell Street, Emmet Street and indeed elsewhere. In Keenaghan Crescent the homes are well kept and the green was spic and span on the date of the visit. Keenaghan Close is prettily situated and planted and the houses imaginatively laid out; some boundary walls should be repainted before next year. Almost all the front boundary walls at Mountain Drive need repainting to match the well-kept homes, and the same may be said for Stone Parks estate. At Tower Hill kerbside weed could be dealt with by residents without difficulty; it was odd to see some vacant houses when we have a housing shortage. In Hillview Drive it was nice to see mature trees retained though some young trees were in need of attention and any dead ones should be replaced. Mill Race View is pleasant and well

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

The many approach roads to the town were of acceptable standard, that from Sligo exceptionally well surfaced and marked, with good signage. Very fine wooden fencing was seen on the Tubbercurry road. It was encouraging to see a new pavement near the cinema and it is hoped that the same attention can be given to the Back Road. Entrances to factories on the approach roads are tidy; well done in your efforts to have footpaths extended to the industrial areas. It was encouraging to see attractive lamp standards and an absence of overhead cables on Lord Edward Street.

### **Concluding Remarks:**