

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bunannaddan** Ref: **2217**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **203**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	23
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	0
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	203

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Bunannaddan is most welcome to the Tidy Towns competition. This village is far in advance of most newcomers because the committee, the volunteers and the residents have done so much excellent preparatory work. Your mark is comparatively low beside villages that have been in the competition for some years, but normally a new entry is awarded a figure well below 200, and for one category, Wild Life, Habitats and Natural Amenities, you have not yet responded on the entry form. It is what you achieve in the coming year that will place you more fairly on the ladder. It is good to read that you work with other bodies such as the Men's Sheds and the GAA. On your next entry form please name any agencies or business that have supported or sponsored you – such as the County Council, local firms, etc. You mention that you engage with the local school via the Parish Newsletter: it is most important that you go further than this and create a more active association with teachers and pupils. Thank you for your easily read map which was most helpful. It was only when writing this report that the adjudicator realised there are no sports fields marked on it such as a GAA pitch – even if such an amenity is well outside the village can you please mark the direction with an arrow.

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

The village has a definitely well-cared-for look – well done to the owners of street properties and to the committee for washing and improving less well favoured buildings and kerbs. The strong colour of the Miller's Inn gives a real lift to the appearance of the street. The church is beautifully presented inside and out – the rose window is spectacular. (Marks are not given for interiors but mention is made when highly merited.) The Community Hall is exceptionally smart – so much so that one wonders if the expanse of wall should be tempered in due course with, e.g., a mural painting depicting some aspect of local life or history, to take the bare look off it. The contemporary design of the School was much admired.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting in public spaces is of high quality, some of it very formal such as the cypress trees in their neat square beds and less formal in pleasant roadside shrubberies. There is a definite love-affair with container planting – congratulations to those who keep them watered and generally maintained, an unending task. Plants in urns at the church were less happy because not quite so well cared for. If you need any advice on shrubs and perennials as well as tubs there could be no better guide than the resident of the house opposite the church. This adjudicator was not at all taken by the idea of the tractor tyres when reading the entry form, recalling some murky grey car tyres elsewhere, but on arrival such negative thinking was immediately banished: they are immensely successful, partly because so large but principally because of the vibrant colours chosen which complement the planting within.

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

You do not give any information under this heading. You are situated in an area of exuberant wild life which perhaps needs to be better appreciated. For a start, do make contact with the County Council's Conservation Ranger who will set you on the right tracks. Suggest to the School authorities the provision of bird feeders, which will cause endless interest. A simple survey by school children, recognising, listing and illustrating birds and animals seen in the neighbourhood, would be valuable to them and to the community at large, and this type of enjoyable research can be extended to include, for example, trees, wayside shrubs, field plants etc. There are pages devoted to Wild Life and Natural Amenities in the Tidy Towns book. It may seem bureaucratic to suggest that you look at websites, such as the National parks and Wildlife Service, www.npws.ie, and Bird Watch Ireland, www.birdwatchireland.ie, but you will undoubtedly find inspirational ideas there. Next year we will hope to read of progress.

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

You do not give much information under this heading either. (There are activities that are 'invisible' to the adjudicator and these should be described briefly as a matter of information and also to gain additional marks. Incidentally, the average mark under this heading in the county is 17 so you are not all that far behind.) In most centres it is the School that provides the impetus for SWRM, invariably under the Green Schools scheme. Green flags were not seen flying at the school but that does not mean that they have not been awarded. Tidy Towns committees provide the adjudicator with a list of Green Flag achievements – such as the provision of rainwater butts used to water pot plants, suitable waste converted to compost, the sale of unwanted home items for charity, the collection and sale of discarded metal, etc etc. The successful recycling of tractor tyres as flower borders has been a good step. Your recycling centre is accessible and clean.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have drawn attention to unoccupied houses and have given notice of your intention to improve Wiggins Corner, a demanding job for which we wish you well. A very few houses need to see to the weeding of their street frontages. An untidy property was seen as a contrast to the extraordinarily tidy Community Centre next to it. O'Brien's Tractors is a well kept business premises. The cutting back of disorderly foliage was favourably noted, but remember not to be too severe for wild-life reasons. Litter control was very good – congratulations to those who volunteer for this job which one wishes was not necessary. The anti-litter and dog fouling signs were noted. You have done very well under this heading.

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

The traditional street houses are what give Bunnanaddan its real character and they should be rigorously conserved. Where new interventions become necessary any new building should be in keeping with the original frontages. At Gormley Villas surely the widespread use of gravel is somewhat harsh? – would not two curved hedges, or even wooden palings, fronting two semi-circular lawns not be preferable? Flower Hill is one of the most imaginatively designed estates seen this year – the steep roofs, the dormers, the porches and the rustication, as well as the subtle use of colour, was greatly admired; so was the extensive green and the planting already referred to.

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

It is universally recommended that a strip of about a foot wide be strimmed along approach roads for the sake of neat appearance, but that ditches be left uncut for the sake of bird and insect life. Hedges should only be trimmed after the nesting season. The extensive roadside wooden fencing is attractive. Road markings are good – and very good at the Community Centre car park – though road surfaces are not all of the highest quality. You have done well in this section too.

Concluding Remarks: