

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carney** Ref: **747**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **280**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	39	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	273	280

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

The work which Carney Tidy Village, its committee, its residents and its volunteers, do is now spread over a much wider tract of country than was the case when this adjudicator last visited, which must be a dozen years ago. This is very much in keeping with a movement that has originated with the Tidy Towns committees themselves to take an interest in their wider surroundings, particularly in regard to nature and the natural environment. Your enterprise in this regard is very much in the fashion: gone are the days when judging was confined between the town name signs or the 30 MPH signs! It is very good to read that you are experiencing a resurgence of interest locally, that you welcome new residents to your activities and also that you are involved in projects as arcane as the Battle of the Books! Your Development Plan impresses – particularly for three reasons: its comprehensiveness, its adherence to a set time scale, and the fact that you have already almost covered the projects for 2017 and it is now only June. It is excellent that you have a Junior Tidy Towns group. Thank you for your helpful map – except that North is conventionally to the top of the page and this caused a little confusion at first. There is an unavoidable overlap of headings on the entry form but please try to include remarks under the appropriate headings – for example, maintenance of the Riverside Park should not be typed under 'Built Environment', simply to make assessment clearer for the judges.

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

The traditional village buildings – the excellently presented business premises as well as the fine old two-storey houses – are exactly as one would wish and give the tone to the whole experience of the visit. The rediscovery of the old forge has been a worthwhile project. The bridge and its surroundings are exceptionally picturesque. Well done on the painting of a vacant cottage. Have you requested that the poles and wires be replaced – they are outmoded and untidy – and replaced by more elegant lamp standards as has been done elsewhere: this would improve the appearance of the streetscape immeasurably.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting throughout the village continues to be of high quality, from the purple-and-white annuals that adorn the bridge – such a lot of work went into that – to the climbing roses at the well-kept picnic area where new seating was seen to be in use. The named containers impressed, so did the containers on walls, and so did the floral boat. The floral bike caught the eye to advantage. Wooden planters were admired in preference to plastic. It is not advised to fix containers – no matter how attractive – to living trees. Several young deciduous trees were noted, doing well.

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

You have made several innovations under this heading over the years and have recently added wildflower planting from native seeds to your list of attainments. The Riverside Park continues as the prominent development exposing and interpreting the natural environment to the great pleasure and interest of all who visit. Do you keep an inventory of the bat and bird species that are roosting or nesting? Ditto the bugs resident in their Hotel. Ballygilligan strand was visited [can this have been where Yeats' Fr.Gilligan originated?] – you have certainly taken on an important extension to your activities in your association with the Lissadell Coast Care group. Congratulations to your secretary for being nominated for Ocean Hero Person of the year. The interpretative signboard will need replacement fairly soon as it is becoming bleached. Good luck for your plans for a walking trail from Oxfield to Flood's Woods.

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

Composting system devised, part of which was seen in the Riverside, and used to advantage in your plantings. The water butt was also noted, and it is hoped that the idea will spread. (When this adjudicator was growing up household and garden water came from roof rainwater, so we are now really going back to roots!) Thank you for listing the ways in which you have made waste reduction and recycling the normal thing in Carney – these are things which would otherwise remain invisible and unrecorded by the adjudicator. The involvement of your children in Rathcormac National School's book rental scheme is favourably noted. There is a query over whether that school is involved in the Green Flag scheme - it is believed to have achieved one green flag and if it is you are probably denying yourselves additional marks by not giving a brief account of GF activities as these would include pupils from Carney. The Scouts' collection of unwanted textiles and mobile phones is noted with admiration

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is understood that some dead trees and broken fences await attention by the County Council: certainly the post-and-wire fence on the corner opposite Ivy House needs replacement – perhaps with a wooden paling to match the one near the bridge. A derelict house was seen on the Lissadell road. The car park of the Yeats United football club was seriously in need of weeding; perhaps such a spacious gravel area is not needed and the section towards the bridge might be grassed? Well done to all those who volunteer to clear the coastline of litter and illegal dumping. Is it possible to institute prosecutions, or impossible to identify the dumpers? In some centres well publicised prosecutions have made a significant difference. Congratulations to your participants in the National Spring Clean and particularly to those who undertake the Tuesday clean-ups. This adjudicator hopes that when the TT reviews its marking procedures this autumn that Litter will be made a separate category from general Tidiness; certainly your litter control deserves a higher mark

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

The traditional street houses have already been mentioned; Ivy House merits special praise and the conversion of the old school into a charming residence must also be praised. Seaview is now a dignified mature estate. Sliabh Mór is spacious and well planted; some front boundary walls need freshening up. The same may be said of the beautifully situated Cloch Oir, though it is not so interestingly planted. Oxfield estate is very well presented with a pleasing variety of house styles and a working fountain.

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

The approach from Sligo creates anticipation of a well kept village via roadsides initially bounded by plentiful wild flowers and grasses and then well planted tubs. Fine wooden fencing gives a good impression by the bridge. Mainly good paving throughout, though the path opposite Laura's certainly needs relaying by the County Council. Road surfaces are of an acceptable standard, and very good within housing areas. Signage is good.

Concluding Remarks: