

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carraroe** Ref: **1768**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **248**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	27	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	19
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	32
TOTAL MARK	450	233	248

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

This adjudicator was greatly taken by his visit to Carraroe, the first for perhaps a quarter century and then only passing through and noticing nothing but the picturesque church. As you show in your submission, social and economic factors have caused a complete change: very few centres in the country demonstrate this in such a striking way in such a comparatively compact area. There are positive and negative aspects to this, as remarks on your entry form acknowledge, and you are determinedly taking a positive line. Your 5-Year Development Plan meticulously covers all topics under 18 headings. What is missing is a timescale for the generation/completion of each project: there is nothing like setting deadlines in order to galvanise interest and action. Some projects may turn out to take more than five years, others may take less: it seems important to set achievable goals. What is impressive is that this is no mere wish-list – you are clearly going through determinedly with each proposal. Your relationship with official bodies and businesses is commendable, especially with the relevant sections of the County Council. It is good to read that you are engaging with the school in a mutually beneficial way.

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

The term 'streetscape' was coined to encompass the traditional village or town main street; here we have something rather different, a cluster of traditional buildings with associated commercial and residential areas clearly defined. The church has great charm and the school is very smart indeed; the mural is highly accomplished; the curtilages of both are maintained to a high standard. Wellpets occupies its corner site with grace. The business park was seen to be spic and span, with so many famous names shoulder-to-shoulder. As in similar developments elsewhere there is over-emphasis on commercial signage; one wonders if, for example, those nearest the main thoroughfare really need to proclaim their presence so forcefully; if they did not, would they lose business? One asks the question while noting that The Lighthouse makes its presence felt through good design without resort to such button-holding of the customer. Molly Fulton's Bar is well presented; a pity, as in almost all such premises, that the building is approached via an extensive car park when one would prefer the cars to be situated to the side and the premises sited nearer the road. These are passing thoughts. Your achievement is high under this heading.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting on the roundabouts and in the church area is well thought out and superbly nurtured. Hard landscaping on roundabouts is also first class. An unusual variety of shrubs was seen. Trim hedges throughout were noted. The tendency with floral containers is for the container to take visual precedence over the planting, which is the wrong way round! because low-growing plants have been chosen. Impressive sports grounds were favourably noted – though the club house on the Dromahaire road could do with freshening up and the dreary concrete-block walls pose a challenge. The holy well at Tobernalt was visited and admired; it appears to be also a project of the Sligo

Tidy Towns group – are you sharing the work?

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

It is good to read that you are continuing with your campaign to have the site at Cairns Hill made accessible and developed for tourism. Not a great deal seems to have been achieved under this heading. Perhaps you should make contact with bodies such as Birdwatch Ireland www.birdwatchireland.ie and the National Parks and Wild Life Service www.npws.ie. It is not known if the school is involved in nature study of any kind. If the local authority has a Conservation Ranger she or he would certainly give enthusiastic guidance, understanding the flora and fauna of the neighbourhood.

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

This is a recently introduced category that will become more and more important. It took some time for committees to come to grips with it but now the majority are doing so to good effect. You are undoubtedly doing yourselves out of a substantial increase in marking here by not providing information on the Green Flag involvement of the school. You do mention elsewhere that six green flags have been awarded – this is a really superb achievement: congratulations to the pupils, teachers and parents. Please give a short summary of the subjects for which awards were made, next year. (The small increase in marking is due to the very fact of such outstanding GF achievements although without knowing what the achievements were.)

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

An uncared for building with a rusty corrugated iron roof was seen on the Dromahaire road. On the same Road the entrance boundary walls at the ESB were seen to have been painted – but weed-growth detracts from the scene. Posts without connecting wires at the church car park give a bleak air. A derelict site a few yards north of Molly Fulton's was noticed. Apart from these few discrepancies the village and its surroundings were very tidy indeed – due, in part, to the exceedingly well kept Retail Park and the well maintained main roads system. It was noted that an area at Reilly's Garage had been grassed and mowed. Well done to your volunteers for undertaking a weekly litter pick. One wishes that such work was unnecessary and that the volunteers could turn to more creative activities. You are showing advanced thinking in erecting cameras at black spots and in cooperating with the local authority in identifying culprits, with resulting fines imposed. Well done in this. It is a novel departure for a Tidy Towns group to make a public announcement at sporting and other public events requesting participants to take away their litter.

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

Carraroe of its nature does not have many street homes. Many pleasant individual suburban-type houses were seen on the Ballygawley, Ballyfree and Dromahaire roads, mainly bungalows with well tended front gardens. An unnamed estate above the Retail Park approached via an avenue bordered by exuberant shrubberies – hydrangea, New Zealand flax, laurel, etc – was admired. The so-called halting site has the appearance, seen from the road, of a rubbish dump, but on closer inspection it is seen to be residential. Presumably you are in touch with authorities who view this in a sympathetic way, but clearly action of a helpful nature is needed on social and health grounds.

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

The complicated (to the visitor) system of successive main roads with their interchanges and 7set of approaches to the village and its commercial sector. Car parks at the Retail Park are very well kept, and also at the church and school. Pedestrian paving is good throughout. Signposting is very good indeed. On the rural approaches it was encouraging to see wild flowers and grasses left uncut in the ditches. An old lane with a handsome gate in the housing area looked inviting – perhaps it is private. Stone wall maintenance and building impressed – especially at Castledale.

Concluding Remarks: