

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniscrone** Ref: **552**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **291**
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	64
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	283	291

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your comprehensive yet concise – would that all submissions were like this! – entry form was studied with considerable interest before arrival by this adjudicator who had not been in the area for about a decade. The improvements ‘on the ground’ turned out to be very noticeable indeed. (You must be irritated by the local signage which gives the name of the town in three different ways.) You are well supported by official bodies and private sources which shows the confidence they have in your work. It is good to read of your involvement with the schools. As a seaside resort it is commendable that you extend your activities throughout the year. Well done on your celebration of Susan Yeats who was an important artist in her own right though overshadowed by her siblings: do erect a sign at her birthplace if you can.

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

The streets in the business centre of the town were considerably better presented than at the time of this adjudicator’s last visit. He is said to have a fixation on lighting poles but the fact is that the elegant lamps now in place give a real sophistication to the perspectives. Several traditional and traditionalised street frontages were favourably noted, a good example is the Post Office. Individual buildings maintained at a high standard include the Church of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven with its unique tower characteristic of its period and superb stained glass – though the former will need freshening up before long. On arrival from the Easkey direction the impressively contemporary designs of the Fire Station and the Crèche give a very good first impression of a thriving town. The smart lines and well kept frontages of the Community Resource and Primary Care centres also impressed; so did the Ocean Spray Hotel with its outdoor tables and seating and huge planters. The low-lying profile of the Diamond Coast Hotel fits very well into the landscape. The delightful Tracey’s Café is singled out for praise only because it was the one that the all-too-short visit allowed, but its presentation may be taken as typical of several inviting premises.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Enniscrone does very well on planted tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. (Containers with low-growing plants do not make their mark.) It was good to see more attention being given to shrubs and perennials: do not believe the rumour that annuals are not recommended! – their colour is essential, if temporary, and they do take a lot of maintenance and use much water – but their contribution occurs at the best time of year for you. The floral boats had not yet come into their own at the time of the visit but their attractive potential was readily acknowledged. Handsome plantings were seen on the Easkey road and at the Diamond Coast Hotel. Thank you for mentioning that you plant bulbs for spring showing, of which we would otherwise have been aware.

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

Your concern for the dune system, the beach and the shore line is admirable and it is very encouraging to see the steps you are taking, especially in regard to the former. The County Council's work in enclosing part of the dunes with chestnut fencing was noted with admiration. This adjudicator shares your hope that the restriction of paths through the dunes will help to reinstate where marram grass has been despoiled and banks eroded; the work will have to be continuously ongoing, is essential, and if pursued with the energy at present shown will be successful. It is good to read that you are in consultation with the NPWS and An Taisce. Good luck for your entry to the Water and Communities Award. A school of thought insists that wild flowers should be left to their own devices; clearly you do not agree with this, nor does this adjudicator: a little help can not go amiss. The wild flowers have real potential near the Black Pig sculpture.

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

Your entry is sparse under this heading in comparison with other committees. Do not confuse it with litter collection though there is an element of that in it. Granted it is a newish category – though an increasingly important one – but by now should not cause difficulty and ought to have been absorbed into the general understanding. Do read the information in the Tidy Towns book. You mention your involvement with the schools but perhaps this does not extend to the Green Flag programme and if it does not you are certainly denying yourselves additional marks. Green flags were not seen flying at the schools but that does not mean that they have not earned them. If you find that they are not actually participating, do urge them to do so and work in tandem. It has been found that the practical involvement of school children and their teachers extends through them into their homes. Your advice to businesses and fast-food outlets is a good start and so is your sponsoring a children's competition to create exhibits from recycled materials.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is unfortunate that the derelict Ben Bulben Hotel and an abandoned church share adjacent sites on the Main Street; it is hoped that suitable buyers will not be long in taking over. It is also a pity to see a handsome property in ruins on the left coming from Easkey, and there is an unattractive structure overlooking The Hollow. Much repainting of fences was appreciated. The bridge near the Black Pig had been cleared of foliage. This adjudicator is hoping that in the review of TT practices this autumn Tidiness and Litter will be separated as headings because several centres where litter is hardly discernible do badly under the present double heading because derelict buildings etc are included. Well done to your volunteers for giving priority to the beach and dunes, indeed well done to the volunteers for everything they do to keep the entire town litter-free. In many towns the dropping of litter is not very convincingly attributed to 'tourists', but here that may be the case and therefore difficult to police and impossible to institute the kind of well-publicised prosecutions that have helped in some measure elsewhere. Your helpers are to be enormously congratulated. In an ideal society you would not have to call on the assistance of volunteers for this kind of work, who could devote their energies to more creative pursuits. You are right to place the aegis for the clean-up following the music festival on the promoters, which they should undertake immediately.

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

It is the traditional street houses that give the towns its real character and these are almost entirely maintained with pride. This adjudicator was much taken by the development that has the appearance of a lighthouse at its centre. Frankfort Close is notable for the largely traditional house designs and its meadow of uncut grass, so attractive at this time of year. A visually startling cul-de-sac with black-and-white homes, Whitecrest, is quite imaginative though not helped by the stained walls of properties opposite. The Meadows is very well presented with its green and pathways. In Woodlands quite a bit of kerbside weed was seen, and uncollected grass clippings, presumably temporary. The design of the dwellings in Nephin Drive was much admired but here again a stained boundary wall gives an undeservedly poor impression at the entrance. An apparently unnamed estate near the Golf Course with attractive stone-faced porches and a welcome variation in colours caught the attention most favourably; some individual homes having most attractive front gardens. Certainly the mobile homes and temporary structures give a less than appealing visual element to the wonderful marine landscape but the need for their presence is well understood.

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

One wonders why extensive roadworks and street renewal was taking place in late June right at the start of the tourist season. (Enniscrone was hotching with visitors on the date of adjudication.) The new and effective traffic management was in place and extensive new paving, walls and railings were noted on the sea front and at the pier. Altogether the roads and car parks are on the brink of a successful outcome. The bicycle rack was favourably noted. Several smart new bilingual street names were seen. A glimpse of the interior of the Quirky Glamping site afforded the surreal sight of a Boeing (and other vehicles!) but at present the roadside hoarding is all too reminiscent of unsightly sea-side developments of half a century ago. Good luck for the development of this imaginative project. The main approach roads are very well surfaced and marked, and neat hedging was seen.

Concluding Remarks:

