

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange** Ref: **750**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **272**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
TOTAL MARK	450	267	272

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Your concise yet comprehensive entry form was appreciated, but for that again some of the information is sparse and it is possible that you may be doing yourselves out of additional marks by not describing activities which are probably invisible to the adjudicator. It certainly is an innovatory idea to create your next Action Plan with the help of TY students – do let them have their say, you will find them most observant! This initiative also demonstrates that you are taking a greater interest in the next generation – it was seen in the photography of the bird and bat roosts that the work was being done by adults when in fact this kind of activity is greatly enjoyed by young people. Good luck with this enterprise. The village – it has more of the appearance of a town – was busy on the date of the visit and there was a definite air of prosperity – it is hoped that this assessment is correct. Are you inviting new residents to join in your activities?

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

The main street was looking well, with some recently refurbished premises and at least two buildings in the process of being newly painted. It is this street that gives Grange its special flavour. Of individual buildings, the Court House is definitely the ideal base for an interpretative centre for the Spanish Armada, being an attractive structure with space available and prominently eye-catching. The Furniture Store is a successful conversion. Some of the well-kept business premises on the Sligo road make themselves known in a somewhat visually aggressive way; Sligo Aluminium manages to catch the attention with less bravado and a much more appealing design. The use of stone walls at the Post Primary school is applauded; Scoil N. Molaise and the church are beautifully presented in their attractive grounds. Thank you for the map – next time please write the names of places and the numbering a little more clearly.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The playground and sports field at the national school are very well maintained, bordered as they are by lawns and young trees. The superb GAA pitch and its curtilages were admired. Roses, notoriously difficult to cultivate, were seen, particularly well nurtured in the stone-bordered bed by Barry's shop. Attractive tubs and window boxes were favourably noted.

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

The river with its dense foliage, except where accessible to walkers, is the prime natural feature of the village. It is good that you are leaving grass uncut in many open areas. The bird and bat boxes: do you keep an inventory of residents? If so we would be pleased to see it. Well done with your 5-star Bug Hotel. The wild flower planting is

exceptionally successful; you mention that a Survey has been undertaken (No.7 on the map) in co-operation with the Fisheries Board and the County Council though you do not give details of the content: perhaps you will let us see a summary next year. You also mention that the wild flowers 'attracted a lot of wild life to the area' but you do not specify what kinds – we would be glad to know this, quite apart from the additional marks that such information would achieve. Plans for increased fuschia and whitethorn planting are admirable.

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

You mention that an active retirement group meets weekly 'to carry out some work for Tidy Towns' but you do not specify what work and here again you may be denying yourselves an increase in marking. Well done in seeking advice from your local County Council to establish a more sustainable litter and waste campaign. The council officer will undoubtedly begin by asking you not to confuse litter collection with resource management, the whole purpose is to reduce litter and other waste at source so that – come the day! – litter picking and allied activities will be a thing of the past. What is missing here is an account of Green Flag activities in the local schools. In almost all cases throughout the country the Tidy Towns centres that do by far the best under this heading are those where there is enthusiastic Green Flag participation. The main categories are Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Marine Environment. Do communicate with your local schools in this matter and include a note on the subject on your next entry form.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A very few derelict or vacant buildings were noticed on the outskirts. One rusty corrugated iron roof was seen. There was some evidence of poison used to keep down weeds which had the effect of creating an even more unsightly roadside with dead weeds! Your litter control is of a high standard. Well done to those who undertake daily litter patrols and congratulations to members of the TY group who patrol weekly.

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

As noted above, it is the main street that gives Grange its memorable and special character; well done to those householders who keep their village-centre homes with such pride. Pine Grove was seen to be very smart with neat one-storey houses and first rate shrubberies. Court House Drive, its spacious green sparkling at this time of year with wild flowers – clover, buttercup, daisies – was visited, and the suggestion is that the kerbside grass immediately in front of the houses should be kept mown. Some young trees here need attention and one dead tree should be replaced. An extensive brick-fronted cul-de-sac was admired – it may be Glenview Place. It was good to see part of the open lawn at The Meadows had been reseeded. A most attractive but apparently unnamed estate with high gables, dormers, barge-boards and porch canopies opposite the Post-Primary school caught the attention most favourably.

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

The approach from Bundoran gives a very good first impression of Grange. Main road surfaces and markings are first class and surfaces and paving elsewhere are of good standard. The stone bridges provide a picturesque quality to the village scene. A new car park was noted near The Meadows and other car parks were seen to be well kept.

Concluding Remarks: