

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullaghmore** Ref: **315**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **288**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	37
TOTAL MARK	450	279	288

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

The Mullaghmore Active committee and its supporters are clearly taking a central place in community affairs and development. Your entry form displays a welcome sense of comprehensiveness and confidence. Judging took place on a day of Mediterranean brightness enjoyed by many other visitors, in mid-June. Thank you for your useful large- and small-scale maps and for your pictures of salient locations and events. Your 3-Year Plan seems to cover everything that is necessary in quite a creative way; do not be dismayed if some projects take longer than anticipated – but you are certainly well advised to put down deadlines for completion. It is good to read that you plan to become more involved with local schools, and also good that you have a category called 'Gardening Volunteers' – this is unique to Mullaghmore as far as this adjudicator is aware.

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

The almost one-sided main street is notable for the impressive way in which individual buildings are presented. Two outstanding improvements have been the revitalising of the facades of the hotels – these add enormously to the dignity of the streetscape, as indeed do the elegant lamp-standards which provide an added element of sophistication. Also, the blue mural on a seafront house creates an imaginative element which is both sophisticated and amusing. The main work of the committee seems to have been the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse for community use which looks very well indeed – thank you for the pictures of the (also blue) interior: an important job well done. The Finbarr Hegarty seat was admired. It was interesting to see the collection of framed photographs of Mullaghmore in the past in the Pier Head Hotel; quaint it then was; who would want to go back to those times?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting throughout was varied, attractive and clearly very time-consuming in preparation and maintenance. Well done to the gardening volunteers. The Peace Garden, with its judicious selection of shrubs and perennials, was exactly what its name suggests, a place where one would pause to meditate. There were no other visitors at the same time as the adjudicator – it may be that visitors to Mullaghmore believe it to be private since it is attached to a religious house and the sign is hardly conspicuous; it deserves to be seen, but perhaps a crowd would destroy the intention? The Sailing Club environs is beautifully presented. Marigolds were making their presence felt in seafront tubs. The triangular bed of annuals with its hard landscaping was surviving in spite of heavy roadworking vehicles passing around it. (One wonders why essential roadworks were taking place in the holiday season). The palm-girt picnic site on the Coast road was admired, along with the Pier Head picnic ground.

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

You write that the Peace Garden is “a haven for bees and butterflies” – it certainly is, with its pollinator friendly planting. It was good to read that you have entered for the Pollinator Award and have absorbed the actions advised by Biodiversity Ireland in your entry – every good wish for this. It was noted that you had deliberately left long grasses on some road verges. Thank you for advertising to activities that we would otherwise have been unaware of, such as appropriate lectures and nature walks. The pictures of “birdwatching in the whins” tell us a great deal about what goes on out of season.

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

You do not give very much information on your activities under this heading save that you maintain the composting area behind the Peace Garden (and presumably use the resulting compost for your bedding incentives). A bring bank was not seen though it is certain that there is one. In your proposed involvement with local schools be sure to engage with the Green Flag programme (assuming that they exist, as they are almost certain to), and in your next submission please give a brief account of GF activities and a list of projects that have been awarded flags. We have found that it is through the schools, and the children bringing home the information, that an understanding of sustainable waste and resource management – a ridiculously pompous title! – reaches families and businesses. You may have been denying yourselves a significant increase in marking though not having being active in this area.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The outdated poles and wires on the hilltop roads disfigure this wonderful landscape enormously. This is the only major source of “untidiness”. You deal with dumping and litter very satisfactorily. Well done on your efforts along with Sligo County Council to clear an unofficial dump on a headland field – thank you for your pictures which are initially horrifying and secondly show success. Presumably no culprit(s) were found. The beach clean-up last September appears to have been equally successful. Very special thanks are due to your volunteers for keeping the village as litter-free as it was on the date of this visit.

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

The houses in the village street, as mentioned above, are very well presented. Thank you for drawing attention to the improvements at Harbour Hill. Cottage Road and the crescent that it develops into needs the same kind of sympathetic attention. Quay Park is a charming cul-de-sac with houses in pastel shades and a fine escalonia hedge, though the post-and-wire fence needs replacing – suggest with more escalonia. Breffni Road is somehow less appealing, possibly because the straight road gives it a somewhat severe appearance. Residents need to deal with kerbside weed – only a few minutes work for each household a couple of times a year. Quay View Estate’s thoughtful layout of staggered buildings to catch the view appealed greatly. Quay View 1-6 has the best of everything – magnificent location, interesting layout, good paving and surfacing and excellent mixed planting. Several individual homes were admired, particularly an imaginative A-line house on the hilltop.

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

The approach from Cliffony, with low stone walls, trim verges and first class road markings seems to deteriorate slightly, nearer the village, with the stone wall on one side subsumed by weed growth so that it appears not to know if it is a wall or a bank! Either would be fine. Carparks in the village were spic and span on the date of the visit. The galvanised barrier at the beach car park was doing its duty admirably. Surfaces and paving in lanes off Cottage Road need attention. Extensive roadworks were in progress in two areas – the improvements which they are making will be looked forward to next year.

Concluding Remarks: