

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carnew** Ref: **1107**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **243**
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	19
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	238	243

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

You are very welcome to the 2017 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition and we thank you for continued participation in the competition and for all the work carried out by Pride of Carnew over the last year. You have 9 Committee Members who meet bi-monthly and you held your AGM in June of this year. It is good to see you are well supported locally and have established links with a number of individuals and organisations who support you in furthering your aims, such as Tomacork Community Employment Ltd., Wicklow Rural Partnership (providing Tús workers), Cllr. Pat Dolan, Carnew Training and Development Centre who assist with publishing your Newsletter and Wicklow County Council Engineers Mr. Dermot Graham and Mr. Pat Scott. The weekly Lotto to provide funding for your activities is a good initiative. It is important to continue to foster strong linkages between Pride of Carnew and local businesses in the Town, with the opportunity to provide mutual supports and benefits. Your means of communication with local stakeholders is varied with particular emphasis on notifications in the Carnew Newsletter, local Newspapers and your Facebook page. We note that you have strong links to the local Foróige Youth Café and the Green Schools Committees in all 3 local schools - Scoil Aodán Naofa, All Saints N.S. and Coláiste Bhríde Community College, who take great pride in their Green Flag Status. It is significant that your work over the years and more recently since 2012, has given rise to a greater sense of Community and Pride in Carnew and your efforts throughout the year and particularly during the Christmas period, are well recognised by your Community. Thank you for your very clear Application Form and map of the town (with numbered legend), which allowed the adjudicator to identify items and places of interest and assisted greatly in the adjudication process. The photographs submitted with your application form were also very informative and convey the obvious enthusiasm which exists amongst the local Community in Carnew for the improvement of their area.

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

Carnew Castle is a major heritage feature situated in a central location in Carnew with its imposing Castle wall and entrance gates fronting directly onto your Main Street. The recent repair works to the high wall were carried out in a very sensitive manner and the new stonework has matched existing wall very well. It is great that you are involved in organizing an open weekend in the stunning Castle Grounds during National Heritage Week. Perhaps it might be possible to secure improved public access to these private grounds on a more regular basis by agreement with the owners – this could become an important tourist amenity in Carnew into the future and would improve visitor numbers to the town. A sign or plaque providing historical information on the Castle could be erected nearby in the short-term. St Brigid's Hall was admired a lovely historic building fronting the street. The remnants of a structure in granite on the main street was noted and we wondered about the historical significance of this-perhaps it was used to pin notices in the past? We noted the Church of Ireland All Saints Church which is a building of great architectural quality in the town and the maintenance of the grounds was good. However, the main gates would benefit from painting. The frontage of All Saint's National school was also admired. Scoil Aodán Naofa was visited and

presentation of the school grounds and colourful window-boxes were noted positively. The Catholic Church of the Most Holy Rosary is a very imposing building in the Carnew, of significant architectural importance. The Church grounds, although kept very neat and tidy, would benefit from the introduction of some green elements and possibly some formal tree planting. The unusual herringbone-patterned stonewalling fronting the properties in the vicinity of the Church was particularly admired. The frontage of Coláiste Bhríde was noted and the grounds were generally well maintained. The school sign has become a bit grubby and would benefit from cleaning/replacement. You may also need to restrict temporary commercial signage in this area which is unsightly. It was good to note that Carnew Training and Development Centre is providing so much information and quality training courses for the people of a Carnew and that the Cosy Corner building has been restored. The sign on the shopfront for the Discount Centre could be looked at with a view to providing a more traditional approach here. The newly shot-blasted 1798 memorial was admired - this work has really transformed the monument and has made a big improvement to the presentation of the streetscape here. Shopfronts positively noted included Jim Byrne's Lounge and Evelyn's Beauty Salon, Linda's Hair and Beauty premises. The Credit Union building also looked well and the entrance was well maintained. Be careful to arrange for the painting of the railings here soon as they can quickly deteriorate with rust. Some premises and shopfronts which would require some further improvement/attention in Carnew would include the Oriental Plaza, McCarthy's Second-Hand Furniture, Angel's Beauty Salon, Roma Takeaway, Partner's Takeaway, Correll's Toplevel, Sinnotts, and Londis. We noted the granite filled out areas which help to regulate parking. However, we found a considerable amount of maintenance work outstanding here such as weeding, cleaning of surface drains etc. In addition, some of the planter pits had no plants in them and a few bollards were broken and required painting.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It is noted that you continue to maintain flower boxes on the Gorey Road, the shrubbery bed on the Aughrim Road, the large bed at the entrance to Tomacork Road and these areas looked well on adjudication day. The improvement works undertaken at the entrance to the Back Alley were admired. However, significant use of herbicides was noted further up the lane and there was littering and evidence of anti-social activity in this area. Perhaps with some investment, the Back Alley could be transformed and developed into a Public Park for Carnew? The margin opposite Candy's Petrol Station was well presented on the day of adjudication.

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

Under this category you have arranged to have bird feeders and nesting boxes placed on a number of local trees, you have used plants resistant to slugs in your planting schemes and have raised awareness locally in relation to the problem of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed. You are also raising awareness in your monthly Newsletter in relation to the timing of hedge cutting operations to protect nesting birds and environmentally friendly ways to control slugs in gardens.

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

It was good to see the segregated waste bins on the forecourt of Candy's Petrol Station. We note also that there is a bottle/clothing recycling facility to the rear of this premises. The recycling facility at Coláiste Bhríde Community College is promoting greater recycling activity in Carnew. However, waste reduction measures are also important and the National Junk Koiture Competition run as part of the Transition Year Programme helps to highlight to young people how everyday items can be used creatively and need not be discarded. It would be worthwhile organising events under this category such as creating an awareness of the problem of food waste or alternatively looking at Water Conservation and Energy and Resource issues. Your group might consider further sustainable water energy and transport actions e.g. encouraging car-pooling, use of water butts for garden watering, development of cycling facilities and routes, home insulation projects, the fitting of use of solar panels on dwellings and heat exchange systems to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses etc. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities. Grant funding may also be available to provide energy efficiency upgrades for community and commercial facilities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is noted that you have Community Employment/Tús workers carrying out daily litter collections in Carnew and the picked litter is segregated. You continue to monitor the tidiness of the Main Street. However, some littering on the main street was noted on the day of adjudication and we wonder whether there should be a greater direct involvement of local residents and businesses in litter control. Perhaps a Litter Management Plan should be put together in consultation with Wicklow County Council. This could include an awareness campaign, liaison with schools and scheduling of additional litter picks, particularly at weekends. The issue of litter bins can be contentious and they need to be carefully sited and designed - however consider installing bins with small openings to prevent the dumping of domestic waste in the bins

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

The majority of the residential properties and businesses along Main Street were presented to a good standard although a small number of properties would benefit from re-painting. Highfield estate was visited and it was noted that the standard of maintenance in the estate was generally good. In Valley Heights estate there was a very good standard of maintenance of the estate. However, the road surfaces would benefit from improvement work. Tomacork View, Coolattin Oaks and Hillview were visited and there was some litter on the open spaces and an abandoned car at Tomacork View. Hedge screen planting could be considered along boundary walls and around the ESB kiosk here. Brookfield estate and Cove's Brook were also visited and a good standard of maintenance of

the communal open spaces in these estates was noted.

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

The Primary Care Centre building on the Gorey Road was particularly admired and the grounds around the building have been very well landscaped. This will be a very important facility serving your Community. It is noted that the stone bridge at Soldier's Bench has been restored in conjunction with Wicklow County Council. The Mulronee seating area with its well-constructed perimeter stone walls on the approach to Carnew along Mill Lane was admired. Also noted along Mill Lane was the Mulronee Spring and trough which we understand you have plans to restore.

Concluding Remarks:

Carnew really has a lot going for it and has great potential to progress further in the competition. The traditional streetscape and character in the town remains largely intact and this is enhanced by the presence of a historic Castle right in the centre of the town. It is clear there is enthusiasm locally to foster even greater pride in your town and further consultation with Wicklow County Council and local businesses could prove beneficial in this regard as would the development of a 3-5 year Tidy Towns Plan for the improvement of Carnew. We wish you well in your endeavours over the coming year.