

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delgany** Ref: **249**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **275**
Category: **C** Date(s): **27/06/2017**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2016 | Mark Awarded 2017 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 40 | 40 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 36 | 36 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 31 | 32 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 10 | 10 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 55 | 56 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 36 | 36 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 30 | 30 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 273 | 275 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

You are very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2017. Well done to your Committee for participating in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the very useful and clear map of the village with numbered key – this was very helpful to the adjudicator in finding the various features and works undertaken by Delgany Tidy Towns Committee in the village. Thanks also for the Heritage of Delgany Report which gives great detail on the historical development of Delgany since the early Christian period. It is noted that Delgany Tidy Towns is operating for the last 36 years and currently has 7 members and you have at least 4 meetings per year. It is interesting that historically the group gave rise to the emergence of Delgany Community Council. That you liaise with local schools and scouts and are supported by a wide range of organisations in the area is particularly significant. Perhaps it would be good to formalize this by having a youth representative on your Committee to expand the reach of the Committee amongst local young people and their families. It is good to see that you organise talks during the year on ecology and local history. Perhaps more details could be provided on these within your application so that the appropriate marks can be awarded for same. It is good that your Committee is involved with the preparation of a Village Design Statement for the Village and engaging with developers regarding proposed new residential developments in the area- we wish you well with these endeavours. Introducing a 'Pride of Place' Competition for local housing estates is a welcome development and hopefully this can gain you marks in this aspect of the Competition in the future.

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

Delgany is a beautiful picturesque and historic village with strong architectural character and curving street pattern overlooking the Three Trouts Stream River Valley and Drummin Hill, located to the South. It is good to note that the village is covered by an Architectural Conservation Area as part of a Local Area Plan designated for the area. The Christchurch Church which is a fine building at the entrance to Delgany was visited and the church surrounds were excellently presented and were very neat and tidy. The light- gravel surface at the entrance to the graveyard and Church has been used here to great effect. The old school house building was admired. The shuttered 'Patterson's' premises at this location detracts somewhat from the approach to the village. The signage and shopfront at the Mini-market Shop in the centre of the village could be reviewed as it not really in keeping with the overall character of the village streetscape. The Farrelly's Butchers shopfront sign has faded somewhat and would benefit from repainting/replacement. The pump feature and associated floral display were greatly admired. The wonderful cottage garden at the premises named Auntie May's impressed. The Heavenly Therapy artistic sign was worthy of praise as was the small infill development at Hunters Brook. The car park and frontage of Delgany National School was well presented and it is good to see that the school has participated in the Active School Programme and the Green Schools Programme. It is noted that a Village Design Statement is being prepared for the village and that you are engaging with Developers regarding proposed new housing developments on a number of sites close to the

village and we wish you well with your discussions on these matters.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new planters located opposite the Church of Ireland Church were noted positively. The perennial planting scheme at the entrance to Bellevue Lawn (beside the post-box) was greatly admired and is a wonderful feature in this area. However, some green waste was also noted at the entrance to Bellevue Lawn.

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

The start of the County Wicklow Delgany Heritage Trail was visited and the great work done in providing a timber handrail and upgrading the steps at the section known as 'Jacobs Ladder' was admired. This is a wonderful natural and recreational amenity in Delgany and is a great asset to the village. Your adjudicator was particularly impressed by the dense woodland canopy, flora and fauna present and the two natural stone pedestrian bridges traversing the stream at the end of the steps.

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

It is good to hear that Sustainable water sourcing is encouraged amongst Delgany Residents and one wonders what proportion of the residents are now using water butts to harvest rainwater for watering their gardens during the summer months. Some further projects under this category could include composting and grow your own initiatives and proposals to help reduce food waste in the Community.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is noted that you participate in the annual An Taisce National Spring Clean week and you held your village clean up on the 1st April with a good turnout of local residents. It is good that you have been allocated two Tús Workers who undertake a cyclical works schedule to maintain hedges, footpaths, verges, and open spaces in the village. Litter control was good on the day of adjudication and the presentation of the village core was generally neat and tidy.

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

It is noted that work is in progress on the preparation of a Village Design Statement which will impact your future proposals under this category. Bellevue Lawn estate was visited and was generally well presented, although there were some weeds present along roadside kerbs which detracted from this area. Convent Court and Bellevue Court estates are maintained to a high standard. The Elsinore housing estate with its feature entrance and tree lined access road impressed greatly.

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

The approach roads to Delgany including roadside margins, hedgerows, and boundaries etc, were generally presented to a high standard. The double roundabout area extensively planted with roses was admired some weeding may be needed here. Re-painting of road markings near the small roundabouts at the N11 junction would be beneficial and ramps and road surfaces /markings on the approaches to the village could also be renewed. During the visit, it was noted that there is constant traffic travelling through the village at significant speed, which is not very pedestrian friendly. Perhaps some sensitively designed traffic calming measures would help to tackle this issue.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a great pleasure to visit your beautiful village and your adjudicator found the overall setting and village core to be a delightful place to have experienced for the first time. You have great potential, with some further work across all the categories, to progress further in the competition. We look forward to hopefully seeing some of the currently unoccupied premises in the village brought back into use before long. We hope you find the comments in the report helpful and wish you well with your endeavours for the coming year.