

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Berrings** Ref: **1832**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **288**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	280	288

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

This was this adjudicator's first visit to Berrings and it was an absolute delight and a surprise as to how much can be achieved in such a small centre. Welcome Berrings to the 2017 Tidy Towns Competition! There is clearly a wonderful community spirit in Berrings with everyone working together to improve their surroundings. The social benefits of all your organised activities is very obvious and a great sign of a thriving rural community. Having 20 volunteers who can be called upon from a population of 100 is very impressive – well done to all.

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

The crossroads at the heart of Berrings features lovely examples of Irish rural architecture with St Mary's church and Reen's Bar. The work on the old Dance Hall is terrific with great murals and planting – the bike looked very much in the right place! We note your hope to restore the Hall fully back to community use – that would be wonderful. Casey's Cottage looked very well with more great painting and planting and the same for Sorenson's – Berrings obviously has a very talented artist in its midst!

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have been very clever in developing areas along your approach roads, thus giving your community more landscaped areas to enjoy than the usual small Irish village. The 1916 Garden was seen and admired and its location in the corner of the church carpark is great making it accessible to all. The Rowan trees are a good choice with both their biodiversity value and interest across the seasons. The planting underneath could do with a little fleshing out – perhaps introduce a few more herbaceous perennials to add colour and more pollinator-friendly planting maybe some of the local green-fingered gardeners might be able to provide a few cuttings?

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

It is great to hear you have become 'Citizen Scientists' and are sending in your observations to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Make sure to download your free copy of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from the NBDC website – it has lots of great advice and guidance on enhancing your local area and maximising its biodiversity potential particularly for community groups. You acknowledge the beautiful biodiversity of the Berrings area and this is clear from the sensitive planting around the village – the Foxgloves were putting on a wonderful show on the day of the adjudication visit. The informative noticeboards around the village are great for creating awareness and the input of the local school children to these is very heartening to hear. The Orkla Farm project is very impressive and we look forward to the development of the Oak wood there. The wildlife garden at Paddy Brien's Cross looked very interesting but three members of your committee were very busy at work there on the evening of our visit so we

didn't get a closer look! Well done on all the work.

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

The water tank units were noted and their painting admired! The local popularity of the old metal wheels re-used for planting is a great story. Your recycling work following litter picking work is highly commendable. Your group seems to have a great awareness of waste minimisation amongst your own activities through minimising printing etc. Your compost centre was visited and it's great to hear it is supplying you with compost for your flowerbeds – this is true sustainability!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Berrings was looking very tidy on the adjudication visit reflecting all your group's hard work in this section. Your Anti-Litter Challenge scores are very impressive. The clever-re-use of an old mop bucket as a cigarette bin was noted in the church carpark. The area all around the recycling centre was very clean and tidy.

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

All areas around Berrings looked very well maintained and cared for on the day of the adjudication visit. The great community spirit and pride in your local place is very evident.

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

All of the approach roads to Berrings are very attractive with their lush growth of trees and wildflowers. The areas around the Berrings signs are beautiful as are the lovely places of interest such as the Glasha and the old Meeting Pump. The mown grass paths along some sections also look very attractive and inviting to the walker.

Concluding Remarks: