

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue** Ref: **95**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **272**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	265	272

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Boherbue to the 2017 Tidy Towns competition. You have a long list of volunteers and supporters and a very obvious strong community spirit – a great example of what the Tidy Towns movement is all about. Your passion and enthusiasm clearly helps you gain support from the likes of Cork Co. Co. and this is great to see. Perhaps you might think of devising yourselves a 3 or 5 year work-plan to help you plan and set goals to further the achievements you've already made.

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

Boherbue features some lovely examples of Irish vernacular architecture that are well looked-after. Sometimes we overlook the importance of these buildings when we are so used to them but the fact is they are disappearing all over the country and they are such an important part of our heritage. The planted area in front of the Garda Station looked very well on the day of my visit with lots of good flowering perennials so important for our pollinators and less work for volunteers in the long-run as they don't need replanting every year!

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

All your various flowerbeds around the village were visited – you have obviously put a lot of work into them and they looked well. I was glad to see the TY students had taken responsibility for minding their school beds – it's great to get the students involved – they're your Tidy Towns volunteers of the future! A suggestion for future planting would be to increase your herbaceous perennial plants – these are really important for pollinators as well as lessening your workload as they don't require replanting. Also if you've a few green-fingered residents willing to share they can be free as cuttings from some of the village's beautiful private gardens! Many of these plants flower from May through to October so they're very good news for busy Tidy Towns volunteers.

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

Your updated Wildlife Information panel is great and it was a good idea to involve the local school children. I went looking for the Butterfly Garden in McAuliffe Avenue and found a pile of nettles so this needs a little work – nettles are important foodplants for a couple of butterfly species but some more flowering plants are needed to attract more pollinators as well as looking more attractive – some of the herbaceous perennials mentioned above would be a great addition. Make sure to download the freely available Community version of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan from the National Biodiversity Data Centre, this is packed with guidance and help including information poster templates for wildflower and pollinator gardens. Minding the bird-nesting season for hedge-cutting times is crucial and where road visibility is not an issue, hedgerows ideally should only be cut once every three years to maximise their flower

and fruit potential. Irish hedgerows are vitally important food sources for many species of birds and mammal as well as pollinating insects and more flowers and fruit looks much prettier too! I didn't see any of the bug boxes – perhaps you could pinpoint their locations on your map for next year's adjudicator. Well done on your awareness of best practice in relation to weed control – the mis-use of weedkillers leads to such ugly brown patches in addition to being so harmful for biodiversity.

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

Both your schools have impressive records between Green Flag status and taking part in the Schools Energy Efficiency Upgrade Pilot programme – well done to all concerned. It is great that you are in contact with the Cork Environmental Awareness Officer – she will be a font of information and guidance to your group. The energy efficient fridge in SuperValu was noted!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Boherbue was beautifully tidy and clean on the day of my visit – you have clearly put in a huge amount of work and effort – well done to everybody. Your care in the maintenance of your village is very obvious from clean road signs to clever bird-foiling bins!

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

The houses of Boherbue looked well painted and tended in general – there was a nice mix of paint colours in use in the centre of the village. Many houses had beautiful gardens adding to the charm of Boherbue. The lovely rose-beds in front of McAuliffe Avenue were eye-catching. The kerbs all around the village were noticeably well-maintained.

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

The planting at different spots on your approach roads is to be commended. The Hypericum hedge was looking very well during my visit and the planting outside the cemetery on the Kiskeam road is very attractive and pollinator-friendly. The raised beds opposite the Boherbue Education Centre also looked well with a good mix of shrubs and perennial flowers.

Concluding Remarks: