

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlelyons - Bridesbridge** Ref: **572**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **312**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	36
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
TOTAL MARK	450	304	312

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Congratulations on your first place prize in the Pride of Place award for Country Cork. As Tidy Town judges we are privileged to see a wide variety of the best of projects that are being carried out by local groups all over the county, so we know that very high standard that is needed to stand out.

Your summer newsletter is a great and colourful way of highlighting a lot of the work that you do. Is there an option of sending this out by email too?

You are achieving a lot with a small committee of 7, not forgetting your core group of school students from both primary and secondary. Small but mighty!

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

As befits your name, your Castle provides a stunning backdrop enhanced with lovely walls. Your stone sign has found a very fitting home and looks well.

The red paint on the old wall reflects perfectly in the new cart that you have renovated. The bright red railings on Kearney s Brothers beside it does brighten up what could be a bleak area.

The Glanbia plant is a very prominent building. The 100 year commemoration banner 1917-2017 was very eye-catching and stood out well. Reflection & incorporation of your past was highlighted by the old red cart with the accompanying milk churns beside the plant. I did a double take to realise the dog was part of the project! 100 years of your co-op is well worth celebrating and we are glad to see it being marked.

Your church building and grounds were most impressive. The Stable building around the back of the complex was very well renovated.

We noted with interest and pride that three new lamps on Barrack Street were possible thanks to the foresight of an earlier Tidy Towns Group. When the path was dug up for other services they put down ducting to allow for lighting in the future.

The community centre is very well-kept as are the school grounds. Castlelyon Pipe Band building was certainly nice and bright.

The old cemetery is well maintained. We note that it figures as an important part of your built environment in your Tidy Town Plan and this is reflected in its upkeep.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Most open spaces were decked out with pots of seasonal colour.

The area at Bride down by the river is so inviting. It is maintained to a very high standard. We checked the pump and it did indeed work very well. If I hadn't seen the submission I would have thought this was in-situ for a long time

such is its professional quality of finish. The edging had obviously been done just before adjudication and helped highlight the lovely crazy paving path. The fences were newly spruced up. The bright purple bench add a lovely splash of colour. On a minor point the two signs could do with some cleaning. All in all a lovely restful area. The "Tree" poem provides a wonderful theme for the area in the church grounds certainly giving food for thought for those that pause in this tranquil area. The makeover for the main village park was very innovative and was being enjoyed by visitors on the day of adjudication. You have some highly imaginative people on your committee. The row of mountain ash are starting to thrive. Your stated aim is to "preserve the past and build the future", Your award winning project of planting seven hornbeam trees to represent the seven signatories of the Proclamation of 1916 on its 100th anniversary along with a remembrance plaque is a very prominent way of remembering the event (as people will pass the trees often) while symbolically planting down roots for the future. All involved in this project should be very proud. Your seat provides an extra incentive for passers-by to pause and reflect or simply relax in this lovely space. The post box with the information sign mirrored with the working post box across the road was a nice touch. Your use of Upcycling was noted, mostly notably the bright yellow bicycle at the corner of Tallow road.

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

Congratulations to your local national school on its 5th Green Flag in Biodiversity. From the list of projects that you mentioned in your report that you ran in conjunction with the school, such as nature and farm walks and supplying reference books for wild meadows flowers I'm sure your efforts played no small part in this. It is always easier to create than to clean so a special well done on taking your invasive Japanese Knot weed problem. It is so important to tackle this as early as possible. The beech hedge was coming along well at the school. If well managed, a hedge is an effective screen, acts as a haven for wildlife and lends beauty and character to an area. Well done on your choice here. Best of luck to you with your Biodiversity Regeneration in Dairy Environment (BRIDE) farming with nature scheme. Your biodiversity report mentions that biodiversity, "highlights the interdependence and interconnectedness of all living things". This project helps demonstrate that economics and environment do not always compete against each other but rather depend on each other. Your biodiversity report is very comprehensive and impressive. It would benefit from extra highlighting of the work completed. We note in your Biodiversity plan that your river Bride is part of one of the most important protected sites in Ireland. The list of species it contains is impressive. Perhaps consider a sign to highlight this could be provided in the future.

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

Having studied your submission before adjudication I have to confess I was really looking forward to seeing your donkeys. Unfortunately I didn't manage to see them I will have to wait until next time. What an amazing way to reduce food waste! Your "lazy pipe" watering system is a great piece of engineering. Hopefully with the amount of work you put into laying down the leaky pipe watering system this will save you labour through the summer months, as well as a more efficient use of the amount of water needs. Too often there are too much resources going into planter boxes when there are more resource efficient methods. Not just the water itself but e.g. not using a vehicle to transport water. The new river water harvesting system at the Bride combined with the rain water harvesting in the church grounds not to mention the new self-watering baskets at the community centre should really help reduce the amount of water used. We would really look forward to seeing these in a future submission. Your Food Rescue dinner combined imagination, a social outlet and education all at one event. Sometimes it is the most obvious saving we can make that we overlook such as checking the dates of food labels in our fridge and cupboards. Well done for highlighting this.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Highlighting dog fouling as a health hazard and not just litter may help persuade more to get on board and use your dog dispensers. There was some cardboard litter around the Bring centre on the day of adjudication, but in general this area outside the Centra shop was well maintained. Your participation in the Cork County Council Anti-Litter Challenge in addition to your effects in raising awareness of litter is certainly paying dividends.

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

Your three year plan highlights that the estate of the castle determines many of your place names such as Deer park and Stables Cross. There were lovely stone walls throughout Ard na Rí, but at the very front the breeze block takes a bit from this. Planting here would help. There were well maintained houses in all estates. The house holding up Brothers Kent terrace sign was very well kept. A little more information on how you help residents maintain their estates would be welcome. Sometimes in Tidy Towns we do tasks too automatically that we forget to mention them. For example you have a "Love where you Live" competition including prizes for the best house etc. This obviously helps towards the standard of housing in your area. Unfortunately the legacy of ghost estates have not all been sorted from the Celtic Tiger era. Your work with helping the residents of Berry Hill who are currently in between public NAMA and private ownership is to be commended.

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

In general the approach roads were well kept with little growth on the verges.

The first thing we were greeted by in entering Castlelyons-Bridebridge was a rabbit and another was seen later on. You mention in your biodiversity plan the value the approach roads to Castlelyons-Bridebridge is creating a possible refuge for of food and shelter for various plants and animals. You are on the right track to creating a great environment for your both flora and fauna to thrive.

As you drive into Castlelyons-Bridesbridge the Abbey dominates the view and looks well

The Go N-eirigh an Bothar leat Sign at Droichead na Bríde was nice to see. However some of the plants around here were slightly overgrown.

Concluding Remarks:

Your stated aim in your summer 2017 newsletter is to “preserve the past and build the future”; you are certainly well on your way.