

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newtwopothouse** Ref: **2182**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **208**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30	31
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	27	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	21	22
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	14	14
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	39	41
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	29
TOTAL MARK	450	200	208

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back to this year's Tidy Towns competition. Congratulations on your Endeavour award in your second year of entry in the 2016 competition. The certificate for this was noted displayed very prominently in your local shop.

We would encourage you to have another look at the "How to complete your SuperValu Tidy Towns Entry" page which is just inside the hard copy entry form, before you begin to complete your entry.

The Tidy Towns competition has evolved from just getting your area to look better to creating an overall culture that creates a more sustainable environment. Community involvement is important to encourage pride of place by getting as many people as possible to partake in events. In the future please ensure that you get the maximum marks for your efforts by ensuring that you describe the people who helped with your projects.

We note from your submission that your local school is very supportive to you by allowing you hold your meetings there. They might be a source of even more help by providing you with information on other work they are involved in.

You have made an a great start and with the improvements evident in your village we hope you will find it a easier attract even more to help out at different stages in the future.

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

The restoration of the stone wall is a very impressive project to have undertaken and completed. The only way of recognising it from the before and after picture is from the pump. which goes from looking like a pipe sticking up out of weeds and overgrown verges, to being pride of place in a wonderful open area with the landscaping that enhances the beautiful stone wall. The new seating area finishes this open space off very well.

Baltydaniel national school has a lovely bright colourful and inviting yard which makes very good use of a relatively small area. The murals on walls were informative (we especially liked the use of Irish in showing the seasons), and colourful which means there was no need for flowers to brighten up this space. The school building itself looked in good repair as did the railings. Plenty of spaces to sit and relax here too.

The B&B, shop and post office provide a well maintained backdrop. The industrial area of Masterlink Logistics is kept well.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

All of the new flower beds and boxes including those at Greenvale House estate, on the main green area at the Angelus Bell tower, and at the road to Ballyclough do look very well.

The open area at the Angelus bell seems to be the focal area of the community. It is very unusual and something

worth preserving. A lovely seating area is provided.

The bench on the Ballyclough road with the sign "The Dail" beside it was noted with glee. We are sure that there are many a debate here to rival those in the other Dail!

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

You have made some progress on this category from last year with the installation of many bird and bat boxes. Feel free to include in your report anything that shows that these were used. For example are there dropping in the boxes?

The wildflower garden at site 3 was difficult to assess. In order to increase the benefit of it consider putting up a notice up showing examples of the flowers there. Sometimes people don't notice the small plants as they can be almost hidden in the grass.

The school has an impressive school garden in a small space. Each of the raised beds appeared very full. While your formal planting is your impressive with the array of colour it does provide, also consider some more pollinator friendly lower maintenance plants and shrubs. Using these more natural plants cuts down on the maintenance and upkeep and also generally cost.

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

This is a category that many in the Tidy Towns competition struggle with. Sometimes work has been carried out by the community but just isn't included. Does the school have a Green Flag? Or maybe they are doing other waste prevention exercise such as encouraging children to walk to school.

No school projects are mentioned in your report but this appears to be a hive of activity. There are certainly some projects worth looking at here. A rain butt was spotted in the school yard which we presume is used to water the school garden. Maybe the children could let you know how often it is used e.g. how many watering cans multiplied by the number of times used.

There is a covered over areas for bikes. Considering how most schools are constantly looking for resources for different areas we presume this was demand led. How many children cycle?

The use of the old bike with its flower baskets is a great example of upcycling. Also the use of the red wheelbarrow as a flower planter. This is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your litter pick ups are having a good effect. However there was some litter spotted on the roadside by Step by Step childcare facility.

The well maintained grass area creates an impression of a cared for area.

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

The new flower beds were noted at Greenvale as were the very colourful flower pots hanging up on the nicely painted wooden fence just inside the the impressive stone entrance. The trees are maturing nicely. Some easy maintenance shrubbery might enhance the well kept green area.

Most of the houses in the area were very well kept. The milk churns in the front gardens of the house on the way out of the village were a nice nod to the heritage of the area in this well-kept garden.

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

The roses under the "Welcome to Newtownpothouse" sign added some lovely colour. Take note of the amount of the amount of advertising signage as this can cause a cluttered look.

While the verges are in the main well kept the signs need to be washed. Similarly with the Business Park sign.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on your initiatives so far. If you keep this momentum up we are sure you will continue to improve in years to come. Keep up the good work!