

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallybrook** Ref: **1873**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **301**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	36
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	294	301

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

From Naionra pre-preschoolers to your eldest committee member in their hearty 90's Sallybrook are really demonstrating a lifetime of commitments to improving their living environment through the Tidy Towns movement. You must have the vast majority of your 98 strong villagers on board with you at this stage, between those on the actual committee of 12 and the approx. 30 who volunteer with you. That is before we add in those involved in your own and communities around you such as the scout troop and local businesses. Liaising with outside groups on wider projects such as keeping your approach roads litter free is to be commended.

My fellow adjudicator mentioned the main map was grey last year. You certainly took their advice on board, as I was provided with a lovely bright well laid out clear map with charming graphics. I noticed your very effective use of your Facebook page in your quest to get an artist, well done. I especially like the stickers with the legend showing all of your projects as this hopefully this will mean you can use the same map next year for some different projects. The great work that went into this will continue to help your application in the future. Fellow applicants would do well to follow your lead.

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

Your application made very good use of photos to highlight the projects that your community was involved in (both directly and indirectly). Your projects were short, clear and concise on what happened and when it happens. The fact that you liaise with the county council for planning applications such as traffic measures and making submissions on the development of a new housing estate, demonstrates a concern to the long term development plan of your village.

As your submission report indicate, you are mindful to ensure developers, Co. council planners, area engineers and elected representatives uphold the ethos of the Tidy towns in any development proposal for your area.

The area by the newly fixed bus stop was very well maintained and the addition of the bug hotel should provide a great talking point or something to hold the interest of little ones for those waiting at this stop.

The Brook pub in its prominent position gives a lovely impression of the village. It is a good blend of the traditional and the contemporary complemented by colourful planting.

As it has such a central location you are to be complemented for the improvement work you carried out at the disused filling station. We found the difference between the old photos on your plan of the site of the disused petrol station and the new photo in your submission striking. On adjudication day we especially loved the use of the old stone ledge at the front which had been painted black and planted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your ongoing maintenance work on your open spaces was noted on day of adjudication. The welcoming boat on

one end of the village and the extremely well-kept flower bed on the other give a very good impression. The GAA grounds are a very central point of the village. It seems to be a hub of community activity not just for GAA. The grounds are well maintained. We did notice the community notice boards, it might be a good idea to have a small Tidy Towns notice here. We did notice the planting of a hedge to take the "bare" look off the bank. This might also be a good area for part a wildflower/grasses area for pollinators as it would be more difficult to maintain. The two milk churns on the road opposite the pub are lovely. The village might benefit more if these were places in a more prominent position. The grounds of the church are very well maintained. The Celtic cross headstones dominate the grounds and are looking well.

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

The Hidcote hedging chosen not just to improve the landscape but also viewed as a safe habitat for wildlife is a great example of how categories can complement each other and should not be viewed in isolation. Your bug hotel is another great example of a project that spans many categories. It is a community project that helps enhance a particular open space while being of benefit to the areas bio-diversity. Last year's adjudicator mentioned that Japanese knot weed was spotted in the river. We did notice the signs indicating that this recognition and treatment for this invasive plant.

We were impressed with the submitted results of the Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme that you have completed this year which will hopefully lead to a wonderful wildlife and natural amenity resource into the future. We look forward to seeing the result of any extra flora or fauna noted. Similarly with the Bird boxes project, the results of the bird survey would be interesting and/or include evidence of their use if possible.

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

You mentioned your group embraces the "shop local" initiative. As well as providing yourselves with some discounts this is a great carbon saving scheme. Your list of projects shows a breath of variety of the various environment enhancing initiatives. Again, a list of results of the environment savings here would be beneficial. We look forward to the results from your schools water survey. Don't forget that we don't always have start from scratch with ideas. Check out websites such as the Tidy Towns website and sites such as <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> for a helpful list of projects under various categories. Well used composting bins were noted behind the wall on the bank opposite Brooks pub. The recycling bins around the GAA area and the clothes recycling bin in the disused petrol station were in good repair and no litter was noted around them.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The day of adjudication found a number of people out in force making the place look its best. Not just out, but working very hard. Putting the report from the Cork County Council Litter Challenge on your Facebook page showing what litter was found and where was an excellent idea to try and demonstrate how easy it is to lose a mark. A very minimal amount of litter was spotted despite it being a busy Saturday adjudication day. Not only did we see evidence of the anti-dog fouling message we also saw two dog walkers carrying full bags after cleaning up after their dogs. The problem of dog fouling is gaining more prominence in Ireland and we hope that other places are heeding the message as such as they appear to be in Sallybrook.

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

The new housing estate of Glashaboy Woods has a lovely entrance. It is nice to see the stonework finish. The older mature trees to the front that you highlighted your wish to have kept provide a wonderful natural screening from the road. This estate could benefit from further planting of new trees (but we realise that this might be on the cards.) The older town houses on the main street are generally very well kept for example no 19. Your representations to locals and residents associations to maintain their properties/gardens is having a great effect.

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

From the main approach the verges are well kept and all speed signs were in good repair. Although it is quite industrial on the road in businesses are trying to help out with planting. Roses under the Sallybrook sign were in full bloom. It's nice to see some of the planting directly on the grass. The "Fáilte go Sallybrook" on the approach road from Glanmire is beautiful. New pedestrian crossing noted and should facilitate for present residents as well as the future residents of the Glashaboy Woods by providing the option of walking to the village.

Concluding Remarks:

My over-riding impression of Sallybrook is the amazing trees enclosing the village on both sides. Listening to the sounds, the rustling of the leaves interspersed by another little brook is just wonderful. Your work only enhances your wonderful village.

