

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athenry** Ref: **189**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **298**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	41
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	33	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	47
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>298</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Congratulations on submitting one of the best entries that this adjudicator has seen this yr. It was full of detail, well-illustrated and very nicely laid out. Well done. It was perhaps a little bit long but this is a minor criticism. In this category, the reader is in no doubt as to what makes Athenry Tidy Towns 'tick' and where you see your work going. Your communications are good and your partnerships are sound. You show that you are active throughout the community and that you are dedicated to your work. Is your logo new? It's very nice.

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

This was a very varied and really interesting submission. Your work spans a wide gamut from ancient walls to contemporary sculpture. On the latter the adjudicator loved the guard dog at the bicycle rack - if only! Thank you for the details on the Old Forge, the new Boys' national school and several other really worthwhile projects. Good luck with the Railway Station buildings as an ongoing project. While no expert in this field, the adjudicator would feel compelled to agree with you on the covering of the Lantern Cross - a fascinating and really unique piece of Athenry Heritage. A more modern piece - your 1916 commemoration looks well. There was quite nice planting at the Ulster Bank. The handball alley was being used for hurling practice. The adjudicator really feels conflicted about this structure.

You should be proud of the way so many of your businesses are kept. The Square Inn, The Old Barracks and Glynn's, Gills and The Nook are just a few that caught the eye. The work at the corner of the railway station is fantastic. A couple of businesses at North Gate Street are quite poor though. The murals at Presentation College are excellent.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Again, an excellent submission here, perfectly illustrated. Your work looks at the water demands of what you are planning and planting and that is so important. Some of your projects are quite substantial so be careful not to over-reach. You have already got quite a name for yourselves when it comes to tree-planting so it's good to hear that you are still at it! Perhaps you could have a look again at the All Ireland Pollinator Plan for some inspiration on areas where you might maximise benefits for pollinating insects. Your work at the railway station is amazing. Special praise is reserved for the landscape planting at the Church of the Assumption. As good as ever. There is also gorgeous work at the GRETB campus.

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

Excellent stuff here. This is by far the best submission in this category that this adjudicator has seen thus far this year. With the range of projects and initiatives you are ticking all the boxes as you go. Best of all, much of your work will have long-term benefits. Your now-fabled tree-planting a case in point. Here you have embraced the ethos and advice of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and applied it right in the heart of the town. You have taken instruction from some noted experts and retired professionals. Really good.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramháola Inbhuanaithe:**

Yet again, you are to be praised for the quality of your submission. This is a really straightforward way of presenting your work. The adjudicator really likes your long-term plan approach to this. It is founded on good consultation and has set its own targets. You set out a really well-illustrated 'case against waste' which was a pleasure to read. You may be amused to hear that as the adjudicator was making notes on the day, a volunteer walked past with a litter-picker and an old fertiliser bag. Walking the walk... Keep up the good work and you will lead the way in this category.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Well done on the thoroughly organised and completed litter-picks. You involve the schools too. Your roster is impressive. Unfortunately, there was quite a bit of litter on the day. For example, at the Centra car-park there was far too much. Here, there was really dirty signage and dirty walls. Some fly-tipping at litterbins was also noted. The old Dúchas signs are past their use-by date now. Watch out for old posters (e.g. a 5k Run held in March last) that are just clutter. The Slí na Sláinte signs were dirty. Unfortunately there was lots of litter in the river downstream of the bridge at the Barracks.

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

Thank you for the description of the various tasks that are ongoing. It's good to read that existing properties are being improved and the residential streets made safer. The planting at Finn's house at Abbey Row was noted, well done. A particularly gorgeous house was admired Old Church Street, another in the single-storey terrace at the railway station.

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

Lots of new walls for your approach roads! Well done to the local authority for the works carried out so well an in-keeping with your heritage town status. The picture of the energetic sheep is priceless. Well, if you put out a buffet... The adjudicator started his survey at the new cemetery and was immediately aware that lots had been done here. It looked really well. Some further tree-planting here will no doubt take place. Several 5-bar gates are in need of some of your care and attention. The children's playground was in good order.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

A most enjoyable visit. There is no doubt that your work is effective and that you are making a lasting mark on the Heritage Town of Athenry. As the many trees mature, you will be handing over a better environment to those who will come after us.