

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballygar** Ref: **979**
County: **Galway** Mark: **287**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	271	287

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 an excellent entry to the competition this year. This was the model of clarity, well laid-out and very well-illustrated. If there is to be any criticism, the entry was somewhat longer than necessary. Please look to the question before setting out the answer. The map was excellent. The adjudicator knows how much time goes into putting together an entry of this standard so again, thank you. You have carried out some really great projects along with a range of organisations and individuals. You have garnered expert advice from a range of sources on different issues. Great stuff. Your extra points here are well deserved.

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

Congratulations on the purchase and redevelopment of the Court House. This was officially opened since your last entry and you have scrupulously recorded users of same. Very wise. The cemetery mapping and extension project is well underway. Lots of other projects fill your entry in this category, including a new marking scheme for the Church Square. You have beaten this adjudicator to the punch on the Market Square as a landscape plan was at the top of list of recommendations for this really quite unusual area. Other stand-out projects are the mural at the national school and the sign at the Garda Station. Best of luck to whomever will scale the tower to remove the tree. Let us know how this went. Your logo is lovely, by the way and was admired at the Court House. The Men's Shed sign is lovely too.

Parked cars were blocking the pavement at the Men's Shed. The Garda Station is one of the best seen anywhere. Love the old bike. The Bank of Ireland could make a better effort, it is felt. Kelly's shopfront was a favourite. The Moonlight Takeaway needn't display pictures of kebabs. Prospective punters probably know what these look like. Coláiste Mhuire looked freshly painted and neat. Holmes' Centra was very, very neat and the garage opposite spotless.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have tackled work in this category on a number of fronts. A major tree-planting drive was part of this. The development of Páirc Shuaimhnis is another. You have carried out stem injection on Japanese knotweed. Work on your wildlife park is ongoing. Last year's adjudicator recommended a plan for the Market Square. Get a good one. This area could both look better and still be useful for your events. The tuppence-worth of this adjudicator is two rows of Hornbeam trees forming an avenue effect in line with the church.

One of the projects that caught the eye was the training of your volunteers on planting areas. Very good. There

were lots of examples of nice bits of work here and there - e.g. in front of the national school. The 1916 commemoration is well-planned. The Suck Valley Way sign at the square (under the 4 plane trees) is in a really central location. Might this be moved and perhaps replaced with a Ballygar sign (e.g. history of your planned town).

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

The Aghrane Forest Park mapping project is an unusual but very useful one. You are working away on the wildlife garden. The Ballybug Hotel is great. You have planted plants for pollinators here. Have you seen the All Ireland Pollinator Plan? No doubt you have - this is a veritable how-to manual for invertebrate-friendly planting. Please don't use slug pellets. They aren't good. The swift boxes are an important addition. You have also put up bat-boxes and have a red squirrel feeding station. All excellent stuff.

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

Another great entry in this category, Ballygar. Well done. The adjudicator won't waste paper by recounting all of your initiatives back to you but you have shown just how much one group can do when they put their mind to it. You are saving water, reusing wood and plastic, saving watts every Christmas now and involved lots of groups. You are spreading the word on social media and by more traditional methods, like a St Patrick's day Parade.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There are too many projects to list in this category - Fair play! You again have tackled messiness and litter on several fronts. They don't stand a chance. From de-mossing to can throwing, this is a varied and interesting entry. There was some work still to do at pumps of the old Holmes' Shop petrol station.

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

The competition is an excellent initiative. Keep it up. The tree-planting will give long-term benefits for years to come. Well done on assisting the older residents. This is very laudable. Many great examples of window-boxes were seen. Good examples of care of houses facing the street abounded.

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

The 'adopt-a-road' scheme has started well for you. The footpath and road crossing are most useful additions. The hedgerow planting will be of long-term benefit. The Roscommon Road was well-trimmed. The painted gates and sign poles looked great. The playground was in good order and in use at time of visit. Even the back lane behind the shop/pub is in good condition. Watch out for a bent stop sign here.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on all you've achieved and best of luck with all that you have planned. The Tidy Towns Competition is enhanced by your participation and determination to make Ballygar better. Well done.