

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymoe** Ref: **2006**
County: **Galway** Mark: **242**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	28	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	232	242

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. Well done on a very complete and informative entry this year. Your submission included a neatly filled entry form, an excellent map (perfect for use) and key, aerial photograph of your area and a series of labelled photographs of your work. All very good. This is your 2nd year entering Tidy Towns and it's great to have you back in the competition! Already you have strong numbers on your committee and you involve the younger residents in a bird-annual clean-up. It's good to read that are getting well-supported. Don't forget that groups such as Tidy Towns can get LEADER support for larger projects and Local Environmental Fund grants for smaller work so perhaps you could speak to your Environmental Awareness Officer (Galway City and County Council) about this.

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

Thanks to your before and after' photographs, the adjudicator was able to see some of the progress that you have made here. Heavey's shop is large and prominent so work here is a great deal investment in your streetscape. The Grove Inn had lovely flowers on the day. The Xpress Shop signage was in need of attention.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You've done lots of work at the Nature Wild Garden, again really useful labour here gives great benefit to the village. The Fr Flanagan Memorial Garden is a really wonderful little space. Well done! The adjudicator had read much about his work but never knew from whence he hailed. A famous son indeed. The wall-top planting on the bend here is very effective and pleasing. The hanging baskets and wooden planters too play their part. The planting atop the petrol pump containers is a nice touch.

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

A fishing club has started and that could be very significant. Many anglers make excellent voluntary 'wildlife wardens' and indeed it is said that the first conservationists were fishermen. You have erected bird nesting boxes and you must now maintain these. Ask a local wildlife expert - if you have one - or contact Birdwatch Ireland if you don't. Your local National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Ranger is a great resource and will also help you with planned and ongoing projects. There are masses of Himalayan balsam (an invasive species) on the waste ground beside the Post Office. This needs to be addressed. Ask the Ranger for advice.

You mention waterway amenities and improvements. It is important that you contact Inland Fisheries Ireland for advice before undertaking any works that could affect a watercourse - even a small one. Again, anglers are often

very well-informed and will know who to contact.

As last year's adjudicator suggested, check out the All Ireland Pollinator Plan as this has lots of ways to plant for pollinators and other wildlife as well as for appearance. The Suck Valley Way goes through the heart of your village and there is potential for projects here. The old Church of Ireland grounds could be a great venue for a wildlife project. Are there bats here? The headstone of a Stoker caught the eye.

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

This is a tricky category. You are advised to contact Galway City and County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer who is very expert in these matters. She will be able to advise you upon the various steps that you will need to take in order to go about learning more. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category two years ago. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas which won't leave you short of things to do to manage waste and save resources.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have removed numerous murals of bearded men. This isn't something one reads every day. It is clear that you are making progress as here and there are areas which have received your attention. These include derelict buildings and old petrol pumps. You are not tolerating illegal signage which is very good. The bottle banks were neat and tidy on adjudication day. Gates shouldn't be tied to trees. The old bench in front of Eddings Bar is past its best now. The handball alley is in need of painting. Unfortunately, quite a bit of clutter was noted behind some walls.

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

The playground was in great condition and very much in use on day of visit. Collins Court was neat. There is a gorgeous little 'wild' bed on the church side here. Ashbrook too was neat and tidy. Several great efforts have been made with front gardens.

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

Among your areas for attention over the last year have been the picnic area on the Roscommon Road (N60), the bridge on this same road and here again a 'Golden Mile'. Do please tell us more this year about what it is that you do here. Your name sign is in good order. The Football Club grounds are in good order. A lovely leafy approach on the Roscommon side is very pleasing.

Concluding Remarks:

For a group only in the competition a year, you have done great work. The adjudicator is delighted to see progress already. You are clearly taking the Tidy Towns role very seriously and we look forward to seeing you advance in coming years. Well done to all involved!