

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caltra** Ref: **191**
County: **Galway** Mark: **294**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	450	288	294

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. Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to submit such a complete entry. Special thanks to the map-maker. You submitted two lovely maps with lots of information on them and this was most useful on adjudication day. Could you possibly fit everything on a single map?

You have been involved with Tidy Towns for around 20 years and you are making a great contribution to your community with your work. It is suggested that you make a more detailed plan. This will help you to assess the tasks ahead of you, set priorities and 'check off' the jobs that you have completed. Really, it's the best way of staying on track. You could speak to Galway City and County Council about getting support to devise a plan. You describe great community spirit in Caltra and of ongoing support for projects that are helping your community to develop. That's great to read.

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

Your new community centre was very much in use on adjudication day. The weather was very nice and there were plenty of people out and about. Two matches were underway at time of visit. There was no name in evidence for the centre. When there is one - should it be in both languages? The old weighbridge needs to be touched up a little bit. The old garage nearby has been kept looking really well. Perhaps the sign could be redone? The Ammo Takeaway looks well. The Emo has a very neat forecourt and both pubs looked well.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your new 1916 commemoration plaque was seen and this is a very neat and discrete piece of work. Much of your work in this category related to maintenance of ongoing features and that is how it should be. There is no point in having planted areas without steady maintenance. There was lovely work to be seen on the two long beds up to and past the Marian Shrine. The Titanic monument is also very well presented. Lots of work must go into maintaining this. There are so many wooden planters. Do please weigh up the costs, extra watering etc. that these take. Most of your boxes are on top of green areas which could be planted into instead... One row of trees has been planted underneath a telephone line. This may need to be rethought. Watch out for what's above (e.g. between the Emo Station and Donoghue's old premises).

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

As advised, you got some expert advice on this rather technical category. Well done. Galway's Biodiversity Officer

is the ideal person for this task. Arising from this, it seems that you have now a schedule of 'things to do' in this category. So, it is suggested as a next step that you draw these up in a tabular format with target dates and indicative timings of work and you will have a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. You could ask the Biodiversity Officer to review this for you.

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

You have submitted a really good entry in this category this year. Your submission targets numerous projects that are all very relevant to this category and its ethos. You show that it doesn't have to be high-tech - a Bring and Buy Stall can do the job!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Again, a good, no-nonsense entry here, Caltra. Well done on the Spring Clean and your regular litter-picks. You mention the work of the cemetery committee in what you do as well. Very good. The bottle banks were very well kept. Watch out for the condition of some road signs.

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

In this category we would need some more details on how you communicate with your residents and how you get them 'on side' in your ongoing efforts to keep your village looking good. If you could provide more details that would be appreciated. Some photographs - perhaps 'before and after' pictures would be good. There are some gorgeous houses though with a great effort evident on window-boxes.

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

Well done on your efforts to present the approach roads well no matter what the time of year. The newly extended footpath will indeed make a great difference to safety and hopefully encourage more young people to walk. Your detailed description of your tasks shows diligence and dedication to the long-term tasks so an additional point is very much deserved here. Apple trees were noted among your planting - very good. It's a shame to see that the old stile at the race gate can't be used anymore. However, it is great to see the Golden Mile looking so good. You might consider asking for traffic-calming measures, some cars passed through far too quickly.

Concluding Remarks:

A very good entry this year and a really sound showing of long-term commitment and diligent care. You will continue to do well in Tidy Towns with this level of effort. Well done.