

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Camus** Ref: **2195**
County: **Galway** Mark: **219**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2017**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2016 | Mark Awarded 2017 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 35 | 38 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 28 | 28 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 12 | 15 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 8 | 9 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 48 | 50 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 28 | 28 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 25 | 26 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 209 | 219 |

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, it's great to have you along on this, your 3rd year of entry. You've submitted a really good entry this year. The adjudicator is aware of how much time and energy goes into putting an entry like this together so we are very thankful for your efforts. You gave us lots of detail this year, as well as loads of really good pictures of your area and your work throughout the year. This gave the reader a really good flavour of what it is that you do and what makes you 'tick' as a group. Well done. Last year's adjudicator asked you to submit a 3-Year Plan. Now, you did submit ample detail in this present category, including a long handwritten piece that described your plans and rationale for same. So, you are nearly there. If you formalised this a little, you would have a very workable plan for your activities. If in doubt, contact your local authority Environmental Awareness Officer for advice. Thanks again.

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

The Church looked well but it is felt that some formal planting here would really enhance the area. The adjudicator advises you to contact a long-established Tidy Towns group for some advice on what might work here. Coláiste Chanúis was in good order. Some new-looking benches and fencing were noted here. The playground equipment approach road well kept. Is the old national school now the Drama Centre? It too is in good order. There was no Green Flag flying at the national school. Could this be a potential project? A light was left on here in the daytime (in July). Could a school garden be developed? Galway City and County Council has a local environmental grant scheme for projects such as this.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Planting at the name stones The monument to Beartla Breathnach (beannacht Dé lena anam) was seen. It appears that he was a great all-rounder in field events. You could perhaps consider some planting around this to take some of the bare look from it. Perhaps some heather, a strong local plant.

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

You have good long-term plans in this category and this comes through in your entry. You have a most wonderful landscape for your backdrop. Heather and willow are very significant woody plants on your flora. Bush vetch added colour to the roadsides. You have a variety of habitats here from blanket bog to reedswamp and river. Swallows were plentiful on day of visit and (in between the showers) could be heard singing throughout the visit.

You have three non-native invasive species in your area. These are Japanese knotweed, Giant Rhubarb and

Rhododendron. These are not dangerous in and of themselves but will spread, displace native plants and will be problematic to remove. It is recommended that you seek some advice on their control now, rather than later. Do please with urgency contact your local Wildlife Ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Your Environmental Awareness Officer (Galway City and County Council) can provide you with contact details.

The bridge might be a good site to put up bat-boxes to encourage bats to roost here. You could contact the Galway Bat Group or Bat Conservation Ireland for advice but your local Wildlife Ranger will also be able to advise you. Bird nesting boxes could be placed in some of the mature trees here and Birdwatch Ireland should be asked for advice on this.

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

A very good entry here on rainwater harvesting was read with interest. A minibus service provides communal transport. Very good. There are many more initiatives that you could embrace as a community. 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. Your Environmental Awareness Officer could also advise you on a Stop Food Waste programme - an excellent community-wide initiative.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your great efforts on anti-litter initiatives. It is clear that you have really got wide support among your community on this front. Only the smallest amount of litter was seen on the day. A very significant length of roadside area has been taken on by you and this is to be applauded. Well done. The bottle banks could have been a little tidier.

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

Your description of the standard of upkeep of the houses in your area is very comprehensive and indeed accurate. The maintenance of stone walls and the traditional white-washed walls are very important initiatives for this part of rural Connemara.

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

You have really significant name stones and you have carried out a little bit of planting at these. It is felt that you could probably do a little more here. Again, an established Tidy Towns group will no doubt be very happy to advise you on this. You have requested new signage for the bottle banks and that's good.

Concluding Remarks:

What a beautiful place! It was a real pleasure to visit here. Thank you for all the effort that you have demonstrably put in over the last year. Go n'eirigh an t-adh libh. Slán.