

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Claregalway** Ref: **1988**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **282**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2017**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>282</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. Well done on submitting a very neat and well thought-out entry. Thank you for the picture-book and for the summary of projects and plans. Your entry in this category shows us what you about as a group - what you've been doing and how well you work with other groups. The adjudicator is pleased to say that you showed this very clearly and thoroughly.

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

The first line of your entry in this category sums it up well: there is more to Claregalway than meets the eye. Indeed, there is much more than the passing motorist might imagine. There is a tremendous range and scope in your built heritage and environment and it's great to see that you appreciate this as well as you do. However, the adjudicator would like to see more detail on projects that you have undertaken in this area, in order to increase your already quite high score here.

The Claregalway Hotel has done great work this year on flowers. Really lovely. The Arches Hotel has also made great efforts on planting and indeed on overall presentation too. The Castle looks great and the Friary is a stunning old building. The car-parking area here is excellently maintained. The Educate Together national school has a splendid garden. This is wildlife-friendly with borage, strawberries, Agapanthus, Oxalis... Lovely! The Roman Catholic Church has to be one of the best kept and decorated in all of County Galway. The planting at the pump-house is very effective. Well done.

The curtilage of the petrol station really could be better kept. There was good planting atop the stone wall in front of the Supervalu but the signage here is poor quality and needs to be consolidated. Meanwhile, unused Centra signage leaned out over the wall, doing nothing except making the area look cluttered-up.

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

A good entry here and you should be justifiably proud of your efforts in this category. Excellent work has been undertaken and completed in a number of areas. You have more 'in the tank' still, it seems. There was nice tree-planting on the way into the village from Galway on a small well kept green area. The wooden box planters look very good. The Welcome Arch looks great still. In fact, the planting here is better than ever. The green areas are really well kept and the floral displays are in wonderful colours and smell great too! The recent tree-planting here is excellent and the older rowan and plane is maturing well. An area behind the Claregalway Hotel appears to have been forgotten about and is crying out for planting and care.

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

Thank you for the species information as supplied by your consultants. Again, you are scoring well in this category and last year improved your points very well. This year, more evidence would be needed to climb higher. A copy of the habitat map from the survey you refer to for example. OPW flood relief works were underway at time of visit.

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

It is not thought that you have fully risen to the challenges of this somewhat technical 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](http://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:**

Thank you for the details supplied here. Well done on the Tidy Days - a great way to get the community behind your efforts. It is acknowledged that you have been busy here. However, there were several areas where work is needed still. Commercial signage is a real problem. No matter how well swept or weed-free an area is, these signs will give a cluttered feel. There is no way that they should be tolerated to this extent. Litter too was an issue on the day. The adjudicator couldn't understand how the various retailers here could allow litter (some quite aged) to lie where it did, so close to their premises.

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

A very brief entry here tells us that you are working closely with the various residents groups. Well done, this is the key to this category - co-operation with those 'on the ground'. However, we'd really like to hear how this work takes shape. Are the residents involved with any events? During Tree Week, are there any tree-planting events? During Spring Clean do the residents have their own activities? Please let us know. It doesn't have to be too lengthy an account but some detail will be necessary.

Some great efforts by householders on the way into Claregalway from Galway were noted. The SMA house is immaculately kept.

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

Thank you for the information supplied here. You have a committee member assigned to each approach road and area. Very good, an interesting approach. Again, we'd like some more information on projects carried out. At the same time, we do acknowledge that ongoing maintenance is a significant part of any good Tidy Towns group's work.

There was a well-ordered approach from the Galway side. Very little litter was seen. Two nice planted areas were noted. Your stone walls, some quite new, look very well. An old bus lane sign is dirty and could be removed at this stage or reused elsewhere. There is very nice welcome signage. The Nine-arched bridge looked even better than ever. The shrub-bed areas here continue to be well kept. Well done.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

An enjoyable and enlightening visit to Claregalway was enjoyed. Great strides have been made here and in your relatively short time in the competition you have forged ahead. A few areas - easily addressed - call for your attention. Thank you for all your hard work.