

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Headford** Ref: **978**
County: **Galway** Mark: **244**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	450	244

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 and welcome back! The adjudicator notes that this is your first entry since 1997. So, 20 years later you are welcomed back as a valuable contributor to the ongoing project that is Tidy Towns, here in Headford and nationally. Your entry was very well laid-out, illustrated and was succinct. Here and there, some more information could have been supplied but this was a first entry in a while.

No doubt you are aware of what great built heritage you have and indeed your history (even recently) in competitions shows what great value is placed on Headford. Tidy Towns can be a great vehicle for positive action and change. It is believed that your desire to 'breathe new life' into your town can be satisfied through participation in this project. You are wished every success.

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

The murals is one aspect of Headford that sprang out immediately on adjudication day. They are bright and bold and oftentimes funny. A great addition. The information signs were noted. The Heritage Trail is only excellent.

The Roman Catholic church grounds are lovely. There are lots of roses and Hypericum with green areas that are so well looked-after. Recent tree-planting was noted here. The flowers at the Mace Supermarket were a delight. Do please reconsider the window stickers though. Joyce's premises are exemplary. One wishes that all retailers had such an eye for appearance. Several older shopfronts continue to give pleasure in their design, whether in use or not. The Headford Arms Hotel looked very well indeed. Varley's is gorgeous and the Angler's Rest is very pleasing.

The Heritage and History information boards are excellently pitched and presented. Our congratulations to the authors and designers.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have an impressive list of areas in which the Headford Community Employment Scheme and the RSS participants have been active. This has included grass-cutting, weeding and other maintenance. Indeed - these are a huge part of the ongoing work of any community group.

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

A great entry here. This reports on the biodiversity initiatives and activities carried out by your community over a

number of years. In short: this is excellent. The package of works that you presented here (and can be seen on the ground) is exactly the kind of work that Tidy Towns groups are encouraged to undertake. The lectures, surveys on Sandy Banks Lane and habitat creation are just what we are after. Now: keep it up. We expect good things from you.

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

Really good stuff here too. While you might be disappointed at your points here, please be assured that this is a really good 'entry level' score. The conference is an important achievement. Much good will come of this. Following on from this you have a number of initiatives in the pipeline. Pursue these. Look at the Tidy Towns website for the downloadable PDF on how to go about this category. You won't be stuck for things to do.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A very good entry here too Headford. Of course, Spring Cleans are a regular staple of our island's anti-litter efforts and a big part of Tidy Towns groups' schedule. Well done, nonetheless. The 2-minute street clean hash-tag is excellent. Your mural artist is applauded here. Good luck with your anti dog litter projects. It is suggested that you liaise with a more experienced Tidy Towns group in order to see how they have overcome issues in this category.

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

Once again - great stuff in this category. You have opened communications with the residential area groups - this is vital. Your community champions scheme sounds so interesting. The adjudicator will watch this with interest. The Community Orchard could be a great focal point for your activities and interest in biodiversity as well as history. Make sure that the name stones of estate are clear and not obscured by plants.

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

With regard to your approach roads, you are advised to look up the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This contains recommendations on how we might improve the lot of our pollinating insects, such as bees, by adjusting our practices when it comes to mowing, strimming and planting.

Converting areas of verge to low/no cut regimes is a way to save time and petrol as well as bees. This is an area wherein Tidy Towns groups such as your own can provide oversight and resources and save the local authority input for another area where you cannot directly help (e.g. road signage or surfaces). This is well worth considering for Headford.

The Golden Mile information is so well done. This is just the way to present such information.

Concluding Remarks:

A fascinating and indeed inspiring visit to Headford was this adjudicator's privilege. Over the last few years you have carried out some great work. You have laid down the foundations for a really strong performance in Tidy Towns. You are urged to keep up this strong showing as you have the makings of a singular entrant in the competition. Good things are looked forward to. Beirigí bua.