

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinvara** Ref: **960**
County: **Galway** Mark: **262**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25	26
TOTAL MARK	450	257	262

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 really well thought-out entry this year. This was concise, to the point and well-illustrated. It was great to have photographs of your group at work and planning your projects. Your hand-drawn map was very useful. Perhaps you could indicate the projects a little more clearly in subsequent entries. A key on the map itself would be good. The adjudicator only found your key after the visit! Thank you for the plan which also has lots of background information, a good introduction to Kinvara for the newcomer.

You have good numbers on your committee and supporting you and you meet very regularly. You have strong links with statutory bodies such as Galway City and County Council and Galway Development. You communicate well. It's great to have you in the competition in this, your 5th year of entering as a new group and the competition is enhanced by your participation and dedication.

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

A good entry here, Kinvara. The conservation of St Coman's is your most important project and rightly so. Other work included a Heritage Trail and a Mobility Assessment - a really worthwhile piece of work. Your commercial buildings are a treasure. The adjudicator admired so many of these for their artistic flair, good design and standard of upkeep. Lots of nice examples of plaster craftwork were seen. Some of the stand-outs of the visit were Green's, the Secret Gallery, Flatley's, The Pier Head, Keogh's Pub and Fox's. Well done to all the business owners for playing their part.

The Merimen Hotel's sign is in need of repair and the Topaz shop/garage sign is broken.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have carried out ongoing maintenance as well as planting a new flower bed on the Galway side. The 1916 commemoration is very well done. The pier area is so well presented. The hanging baskets and occasional planters really add here. The design here is good overall.

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

Your work in this category continues to be guided by your Biodiversity Plan and that is exactly what it is for. Carry on in this manner. A significant project for you this year was the reproduction of the Gordon D'Arcy painting of Kinvara birds. This is a lovely addition to the quayside area and is so well done. The safe-keeping of the original is

wise and the 'touring' of this is an excellent idea. The Hg Trail looks very good indeed.

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

Another good entry here describes two very useful measures. Your composting is now paying off with homemade raw materials for planting. You partnered with a local businesses in a rainwater harvester project that will have long-term savings for your town. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are getting all the basics right here with regular litter-picks. You have an annual Spring Clean and you also attend to the left-overs of your festivals. Very good. Well done on anti dog litter efforts. There are, however, several areas for improvement. There was broken glass at the bottle banks. Giant coffee cups add nothing to the streetscape. Some benches are in need of treatment. Litter was occasional.

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

You have no projects listed for this year. In this category we would need some details on how you communicate with your residents and how you get them 'on side' in your ongoing efforts to keep your town looking good. For example, are there any residents groups? Are they active? Could they assist you in 'adopting' some roadside areas of planters? If in doubt, consult with the Galway City and County Council Environmental Awareness Officer, an expert in Tidy Towns. She will give you guidance on how to progress in this category. Convent Park had a lovely green area and good quality tree-planting. Arvagh has nice landscaping at the front. One householder near the corner of the Gort Road has decorated splendidly with containers.

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

Well done on your new flower and shrub bed on the Galway Road. This makes a statement for your many, many visitors. However, there is too much commercial signage on this rd for comfort. The 'wild' nature of your roadside areas with wild valerian and grasses is the perfect approach. The boat is a nice addition. Roadworks on the Gort Road were underway at time of visit. A nice name stone with planting was admired on the N67. Watch out for road markings in need of renewal (e.g. the pedestrian crossing at the little square). Quite a few streets were missing name signs.

Concluding Remarks:

This was such an enjoyable visit. Good standard of care is evident. Your work is paying off. While some tidiness issues await your attention, these are all readily addressed. Well done.