

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**
County: **Galway** Mark: **272**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	259	272

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. The 'big ticket item' for your community this year is surely the publishing of your Development Plan. This is a significant step for you and you are to be applauded on this. The adjudicator read this with interest although you summarised succinctly in your entry form too. In this category, your levels of organisation shine through. You have an impressive committee and a regular schedule. Your interactions with other agencies are thorough. Your communication within your community may well be 100%. Your approach to youth participation is exemplary - it is hoped that this will pay great dividends in the future.

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

Thank you for the great level of detail provided in this category. Indeed you tell the story very well. However, this amount of text is although very interesting, quite unnecessary. The list of tasks carried out that you provide at the outset would in fact be adequate alone, there is so much detailed therein. So, next year, please limit the text to projects undertaken within the last year. Thank you.

It has been a busy year for you indeed. Most villages of your size would be happy to have half or fewer of these projects to their credit. Your list shows that you have carried out important survey work as well as physical tasks and this speaks well of your approach and the importance you attach to your built heritage. Well done.

The national school looked so good - bright and cheerful and with a lovely array of flags. This and the bug garden look so good. The Community Hall was gleaming - no two ways about that - and the adjacent bottle banks were spotless. You should enter the bring bank competition. Paddy's Pub looked lovely and the Beautiful Bird lived up to its name despite missing the 'd'. Carley's looked well too.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Similarly to the above, your work is well thought-out. You refer to a village landscape plan and provide examples of these in the Appendix. Very good. There is a high level of detail in these and it is well-considered. The lovely old oak tree on the Portumna side is a great asset.

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

The biggest achievement for you was the completion of the Biodiversity Survey. An important first step. That you have also completed a Biodiversity Plan in the same year is very laudable. However, once again, you are cautioned

as to providing unnecessary information. A description of the biodiversity value of treelines and hedgerows on each approach is not needed (although the level of detail and enthusiasm is admired). You are obviously well-informed on this area and have had some notable experts to lend a hand too. The pollinator-friendly bed is a great initiative and very important too as our invertebrates face an uncertain future. The adjudicator took time to explore the Lisheen Walk and the Mausoleum. Indeed, this is a wonderful site for birdsong with some impressive mature trees and longer could well have been spent here.

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

An excellent entry in this category and extra marks here are richly deserved. You are hitting several of the key nails on the head. The local authority could well use Lawrencetown as an exemplar for how to approach this somewhat technical category. Continue in this way and more points will certainly accrue here.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The first action listed here was again information-gathering and analysis which in turn fed into your plans. Excellent. Your overall approach is good and again you 'tick' the right boxes. The small number of signs you have in the village were mostly sparklingly clean. The Bear-Breifne Way sign needs to lose a little lichen.

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

Your description here and level of detail are perfect in this category (hint for other categories!). Your communication with residents is demonstrably good. Only four unoccupied houses? That is indeed fortunate. Well done on planning permission for the playground. It's excellent that you assimilate biodiversity into your playground plans too. Very laudable. There has been some beautiful work done on doors and window-boxes. The old 2-storey house has been painted up very well.

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

Many thanks for the comprehensive entry in this category. You have done a lot this year indeed. The adopt a bed project will be a long-term benefit, it is hoped. Good luck with your pathways. Indeed the loss of mature trees for pedestrian access is a hard trade. You will have to decide how to proceed. Have you considered other options such as paths away from the road? Your mature trees on your approaches are wonderful and are hugely important to you (gracing the cover of your plan as they do). There is a really nice approach from Ballinasloe with well kept verges and restrained planting at the name sign. The red-painted farm gate is very attractive.

Concluding Remarks:

A truly enjoyable visit was had to Lawrencetown and it was fascinating to read about all you are doing and indeed have planned. Good luck with all and this adjudicator is certain to be hearing great things about this lovely little place in the years to come.