

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newbridge** Ref: **184**
County: **Galway** Mark: **246**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	240	246

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. As part of your entry you submitted a very neat and focused 3-Year Plan. Well done. You were also good enough to provide many colour photographs of some of the finished products of your work - very good. The adjudicator is aware how much time you put into making the entry and for this you are thanked. The competition depends on the hard work of groups such as Newbridge. You have strong numbers on your committee and assisting you. You get assistance from a number of bodies.

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

The first stop was at the Community Hall and this looked delightful. It was sharply painted and had great floral decorations. The church is being renovated. Works are also underway at the Eithne substation opposite. Dereliction is a problem in all villages the width of the country. Do what you can through patient petitioning. Cunningham's Pub/Funeral Directors was really well-painted and clean. An Siopa Pobail is very neat and tidy and the Shiva Inn is in very good condition.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You've done a power of work over the last year, well done. It was noted, however, that much of the planting has been carried out in containers. While this is necessary on hard-paved areas (e.g. in front of the community centre or at gateways), you also have green spaces and verges in which to plant. You have also carried out tree-planting, some as replacements and others as part of your 1916 commemorations. There is gorgeous planting opposite the pub at the bench at the huge copper beech tree. Watch out for this bench, by the way. It could damage roots and constrict the tree.

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

You've been in touch with your local Community Water Officer - well done. The sign at the river is a great idea. You hope to talk to Inland Fisheries Ireland on the trimming of trees on the riverbank. At time of visit, agricultural improvements were being carried out downstream of the bridge. It is hoped that the riverbank will recover from this in time. The tree-planting on the approach roads is a great long-term investment in your future. The children's paintings at the car-park and at the junction. The horse chestnut tree at the community hall is very significant for your landscape. There are fairy doors, wind-chimes and bird boxes at the little woodland area beside the car-park opposite the church. Ivy is controlled on stone walls it seems. Very good. Trim it by all means but don't pull it out.

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

Thank you for all the information you have supplied here. There are lots of useful measures here. However, there are probably lots of initiatives that you could undertake (and indeed are probably undertaking already) that could increase your points here. 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. You are advised to contact Galway City and County Council's Environmental Awareness Officer who is very expert in these matters and will be happy to help you.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on maintaining a litter-pick rota, this is quite an undertaking. You are fortunate that the litter warden helps to keep an eye on the village too. You are vigilant on fly-posting which is great. The bottle banks were spotless. The car-park here was neat and tidy.

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

Dereliction is indeed a problem. Patience and persistence are the only things that can be recommended here. These and ongoing contact with Galway City and County Council. There is a process for dealing with buildings such as this. It is clear that so many of your residents are keen on taking care of their premises and their surroundings.

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

Your approach roads are a real asset for Newbridge and ongoing care is evident. The old agricultural machinery has been recently treated with great care. The flower beds look very well. The old 5-arched bridge is a key feature of your approach too. Should there be better signage here to warn motorists of a narrow bridge? There is a lovely approach from Ballygar. There is a nice sweep of green with the farm machinery gleaming. New tree-planting of rowan, birch and hawthorn on roadside areas and nicely trimmed verges enhance the approach roads. There is fantastic work on roadsides on the Roscommon side: new tree-planting and little flowerboxes are so pleasant.

Concluding Remarks:

Overall, Newbridge is a very neat village. Lots of good work was noted. You are obviously involving young people. The peace and quiet of the village is an enduring memory. Well done.