

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oughterard** Ref: **318**
County: **Galway** Mark: **284**
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2017**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2016 | Mark Awarded 2017 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 42 | 43 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 38 | 39 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 37 | 38 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 30 | 30 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 24 | 24 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 50 | 51 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 26 | 26 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 33 | 33 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 280 | 284 |

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. We really appreciate the time and work that goes into your entries year on year so well done. You supplied a hand-drawn map which was perfect for use. If you could possibly include the key on the same side as the map, that would be great. It is noted that you have increased your committee numbers and that is fantastic. You clearly have good links with the schools.

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

A solid entry in this category. Here you have restored and renewed old cottages, powerwashed the old Corrib Hotel, national school and church. You have also restored the fish sculpture. Very well done. The church looked very well on adjudication day and the stained glass window is just beautiful. The Court House now hosts an arts programme which is great. There are some really good shopfronts - Tuck's Shop, The Greenway Café and Halloran's Pub all caught the eye. The Connemara Lake Hostel was neat and well-decorated. However, the Camp Street Café was probably the adjudicator's favourite. The work carried out on the derelict building (in 2013) near the Youth Café is now in need of renewal. The HSE centre was clean and neat. The Bank of Ireland was missing an N as well as some paint from its gable.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your work to date in this category has included hanging baskets, planters and maintenance and renewal at Jackie's Garden. Very good. A square bronzed planter with an evergreen tree on the Clifden Road is not so good. It is entirely in the wrong place. Fruit and vegetables are growing at Scoil Cuimín agus Cairtriona. There is a lovely little space at the river upstream of the N59 bridge that is very nicely kept. Watch out for the Japanese knotweed here, though. Wooden planter boxes with your slogan were noted - good stuff. There were gorgeous hanging baskets on Glann Bridge - an instance where they really make a positive difference. The wildflower planting was noted nearby. Corribdale Park is a fantastic facility. It is nicely wild with lots of uncut grass.

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

The adjudicator was so impressed with the St Paul's Biodiversity Project. It was noted that this is from 2014-2015 but your entry says it continues, so well done. That is terrific work and the students are to be congratulated on this. They are also involved with the community garden and the bug interests here. Excellent. There is obviously someone in your community with ecological expertise. You have a Biodiversity Action Plan and that is the best roadmap for your actions. Refer back to this for guidance. Is there a copy of the biodiversity map available yet?

There is Japanese knotweed in a number of locations. You should take this into account when planning any works in affected areas. There is a sign beside the river warning that herbicide has been used here. The adjudicator could see no reason why these chemicals should be used here (near a watercourse) or how long the sign might have been here either. However, this is a gorgeous little path. The freshwater pearl mussel sign was noted.

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

You have installed rainwater harvesters at a number of locations. The Clann shop is a real asset when it comes to reuse. It is felt however, that you should be taking on more in this category. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category the year before last. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas so you'll not be stuck for things to do to get more points in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Three Spring Cleans? Great stuff! Do indeed make these a regular feature. Keep the name and ethos of Oughterard Tidy Towns well visible throughout the town. Commercial signage is not recommended on areas such as flower beds. Unfortunately there was litter in evidence on adjudication day. Quite a few cigarette butts were noted. The bottle banks at the park were very neat and tidy.

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

Thank you for the information supplied. It does seem like you are staying on top of things in this category. You don't mention residents groups, though. It is important for Tidy Towns groups to be in good contact with residents. We'll need for you to give us more details for your points to increase in this category. Especial praise for the householders on Camp Street - some lovely examples of work were noted here.

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

Your Tús and CE workers assist with approach roads and you have liaised with Galway County Council on the painting of Glann Bridge. Please do supply us with more details of your activity in this category.

Concluding Remarks:

This was a most enjoyable visit and the first in a long time to Oughterard. You have been busy and the adjudicator is very impressed with the standard of your work and the enthusiasm that you obviously bring to it. Well done.