

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roundstone** Ref: **319**
County: **Galway** Mark: **282**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
TOTAL MARK	450	278	282

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 adjudicator was amazed to see that your population is only 200. You must have a massive percentage increase in population in the summer; there were very many visitors to the village on adjudication day. You have around 12 volunteers overall and you have been involved with Tidy Towns for 12 years now. It's good to read how beneficial you feel the competition has been for Roundstone. It is acknowledged that you make contact with the Environmental Awareness Officer of Galway City and County Council. She will be able to discuss with some of the supports that are available to Tidy Towns groups. These would include getting assistance with an updated Tidy Towns Plan.

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

You report some successes with two formerly derelict houses and that is great. A third is still a work in progress. Well done, your persistence and patience are crucial here. The adjudicator noted this activity and it is great to see such significant buildings being given a new lease of life. The Community Hall is in good condition. It was wondered why not planting is carried out here. You could consider some landscaping. The Church of Ireland is a very impressive building and the churchyard is so pleasant. Wrens were nesting in a hole in the old wall here. The Bogbean Café looks really gorgeous. The Shamrock Bar is more traditional and also looks great. Nice planting was noted at the Eldon's Hotel.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have new shrub areas this year, as well as maintaining your existing stock of planted areas. Trees are maturing but a few may need to be examined to make sure of their long-term well-being. You are maintaining your seating areas. A planted area overlooking the playground is becoming overgrown and will need some work. The little wooden boxes look very well. Are the businesses maintaining these? Lovely work was noted at the seated area at the slipway.

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

You report that householders are interested in wildlife-friendly gardening. This could be a very useful project. You should contact your local authority's Biodiversity Officer for advice on this. She will be able to advise you upon the various steps that you will need to take in order to get this project moving. In the meantime, look up the All Ireland Pollinator Plan - an excellent document on managing areas for maximum wildflowers of benefit to pollinating insects.

Japanese knotweed was noted on the quay wall on the way into the village. This is a non-native invasive species and is potentially harmful to structures. You are advised again to contact your Biodiversity Officer for advice on how to control this species. In the meantime, go to www.invasivespecies.com for information sheets on this species. Montbretia is a very pretty plant but is by far too plentiful and widespread. This could be another project for you to take on, once you are advised on how to go about this. Gunnera - or Giant Rhubarb - is another invasive species to be tackled correctly.

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

Thank you for the information supplied here. However, there is a lot more to this area. Don't focus so much on safe disposal of waste but rather on ways to avoid having waste at all. 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.

A new bicycle rack was noted. Indeed there were several cycle-tourists arriving in the village at time of visit and they availed of same. Low-carbon travel and tourism will be a very important part of our emerging economy.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A good solid entry here from you. You describe the May Clean-up, A Beach Clean-up, A School-day Clean-up and even a Fisherman's Clean-up! Very good. Why not include some photographs of these events in next year's entry? A little more detail would be good too as these sound like really worthwhile events. Your end to end village sweep every fortnight is an excellent action. Well done. Information signs like the one for the Country Market shouldn't be here when there is a community noticeboard. This latter will need some treatment soon. Watch out for dirty signage such as the Bureau de Change finger sign.

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

There are some beautiful 2-storey houses along your Main Street. They are almost all nicely painted and bright. Some original doors and windows have been splendidly kept. Renovation of some large houses is underway and this is a very positive sight. Scoil ngCailíní is now a private residence and it's good to see this too. A beautiful residence was admired beside the Church of Ireland.

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

A new wall greets the visitor on the approach to the village. Neat strimming was noted on the approach roads. Well done to the Fás workers for their efforts.

Concluding Remarks:

It was lovely to be back in Roundstone for the first time in many years. The improvements are tangible. You are managing a very significant tourist trade here while maintaining the integrity of your village. You have a few areas for consideration so please do seek advice and assistance with these. Well done.