

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Woodford** Ref: **1165**
County: **Galway** Mark: **269**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	265	269

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. Thanks for the very comprehensively filled-in entry form and the excellent little map which was very useful on adjudication day. You have a goodly number of volunteers to call on for your day-to-day work as well as for the big events. Last year was your first year back with the competition after a few years so you are once again very welcome.

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

You are wished every success with the Bullseye Wood Project. Dereliction and decay are problems for every village on the island and you are doing your best it seems. You are actively making buildings such as the RIC barracks and Heritage Centre look as good as possible. At the same time, you are encouraging householders to 'do their bit' on their own premises. You have carried out clean-ups at the church and have removed spoil from another private site that has become derelict. Very good.

The Ionad (sports centre) was in very good condition. There is a lovely big playing area here and you can see that this is very well kept. Your businesses are a credit to the village and lots of nice examples of care and good presentation were noted. These included Keary's shop/petrol station, The Post Office / supermarket and Walsh's Pub.

The Green Flag was noted at St Joseph's national school. Works were underway on the old school. The grounds of the Roman Catholic Church were neat. The Heritage Centre was very pleasant and the Iron Bar is a great exhibit.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Thank you for the very high level of detail that you supplied in this category. Your rationale is good and obviously your work is well planned. The playground is indeed kept in excellent condition. Lots of examples of individual householder and business effort were noted, including containers and window-boxes. You have a lovely little park and this is well looked-after. The Marian Shrine is also well-cared for.

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

You refer to a number of areas which you have described as Nature Reserves. It is presumed that these are private sites and not statutory Nature Reserves. You describe the work by Ms Fuller as having been done last year. In

order to gain more points in this category, please let us know what has been achieved in the last 12 months (since your last entry). You have some exciting and challenging work ahead with these areas and no doubt you will have much to describe and more points will inevitably follow. It was noted that trees are a very important part of your landscape. It is highly recommended that you have a tree survey to assess diversity, age and health of your trees. You really should get some expert advice on your street trees which could be so much better.

Japanese knotweed is a significant problem for Woodford and threatens the community centre lakeshore and riverbank. Please do get some expert assistance with this. Contact the local authority who will be able to advise you.

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

Your aims and objectives are good in this category and you have taken expert advice which is so important. You have replaced your Christmas lights and you will be buying a water butt. It is felt that you could be doing more in this category, especially with regard to reuse and awareness-raising. 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:

You report hard-working volunteers who are helping you to stay on top of the litter issue. Well done to them.. You have a weekly litter-pick and this is great. However, to have over 70 people take part in a litter-pick that is amazing. You also report good numbers for your Spring Clean. The adjudicator would be interested to see the level of litter analysis you carried out. Perhaps you could include some of these data in next year's entry.

Lots of examples of care such as gates well-painted and litterbins clean were noted. However, weed control needs to be a bit better in places. Dog litter is also a problem in areas.

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

It's great to read about the pride that local residents and business owners take in their premises. The playground is indeed well maintained. Let us know how you get on with the developer with regard to the unfinished estate and also with the owners of the unoccupied premises on the Main Street. Opposite the national school there are two derelict houses overlooking the valley that are in a sorry condition. please try and get rid of the container and the portakabin here.

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

Well done on the maintenance of the roadside areas and again on the litter-picks which extend out these roads. Wildflowers are a great way of saving time and energy. Converting areas of verge to low/no cut regimes is a way to save time and petrol as well as bees. This is an area wherein Tidy Towns groups such as your own can provide habitat without much effort. You may be aware that there is now an All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This contains recommendations on how we might improve the lot of our pollinating insects, such as bees, by adjusting our practices when it comes to mowing, strimming and planting. It was noted that your roadside areas weren't too manicured but nicely kept in check. Red gates provide a nice feature. The Portumna/Scariff Road is very neat and your planting was noted here, well done.

Concluding Remarks:

It's great to have you back in the competition. While there are areas that require your attention, it's clear that you are keen to succeed and make Woodford even better. Thanks for all your hard work.