

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annascaul** Ref: **989**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	450	257

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Annascaul is very welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017, thank you for your entry. The committee have not provided a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan with this year's submission, we anticipate one next year; while the map provided was clear and easy to follow the projects identified on it should have been colour-coded as well as linked numerically to details in the entry form. The Tidy Towns committee is pro-active and making great progress in orchestrating all the environmental elements that combine to make Annascaul both interesting and attractive. Strong links with other groups and statutory bodies together with an increasingly cohesive community auger well for the future development of Annascaul in addition to the existence and input of the Junior Tidy Towns Committee. The exhibition space in the South Pole Inn is invaluable for sharing Annascaul's heritage.

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

Well done on the refurbishment of many premises to their roadside façade in Annascaul's village centre and the support received, this is a fine achievement. Public buildings are presented to a high standard and the church and its grounds look magnificent. The school at the Tralee end of the village looks well too. Hopefully the old cinema premises will be refurbished soon and its curtilage area presented to a high standard. The information panels are a fine addition to the streetscape and heritage of the village are complemented well by seated amenity areas. The completion of works to the Back Road in 2018 will make a significant difference to the built environment. The committee's work on possible street signage for the village is laudable as is the proposed replacement of existing dated finger-post signage.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Container flower displays throughout Annascaul look really well and enhance the built environment wonderfully. Some of the stone planters appear not to have been planted up by the time of adjudication, no doubt this was rectified shortly afterwards. The themed 'train planters' and colour scheme is a nice touch, this could be taken a stage further by using the same colour for field gates etc., Green open spaces / parks enjoy excellent maintenance. If there is a tree planting programme for the village include details next year and don't forget to choose plant species that support wildlife /bio-diversity. Consider also ensuring that all amenity areas (including the proposed river walk) have universal accessibility. (universaldesign.ie)

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

As noted above both parks are nicely maintained, enhance visual amenity and present opportunities for rest and reflection on Annascaul's heritage. The sports grounds together with its entrance and car parking area are

presented to a very high standard. Wild flower displays in margins are an attractive feature for both bees and people. The planned use of an existing small patch of ground for 'wild bio-diversity' is an exciting initiative and it is good to know that expert advice is both sought and available. No doubt the proposed river walk will feature local Flora and Fauna. We wish you success and enjoyment working on the restoration of the old Church of Ireland graveyard and proposed publication on those buried.

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

Congratulations to Scoil Bhreac Chluain on their Green Flag status; it is also good to note their organic garden and the availability to them of a trained horticulturist. We applaud the recycling of old materials in street furniture and the committee's 'paperless' communications. It is now time for the committee to take on community wide projects for efficient resource management for example rainwater harvesting, shared community travel; LED lighting and more; to see what other communities are doing under this heading log onto localprevention.ie and consult the Tidy Town Handbook and website.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Annascaul was litter free during adjudication due no doubt to the excellent work and vigilance of the Community Employment workers and a high level of litter awareness within the community. Overhead service cables located at the entrance to the church should be ducted and poles removed for use elsewhere as is the case of poles on the Back Road. The curtilage area of a commercial premises on the Tralee entrance to the village looks quite untidy and its roadside boundary could be improved also. A rusted roof and derelict premises look shabby. Murals 'lift' their environs. No doubt litter is segregated for recycling; it should also be analysed to determine its source, type, location and frequency to enable the committee devise a strategy that has the potential to prevent litter at source.

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

The Inspiration Lodge B&B premises looks quite magnificent in its presentation. Forecourt areas at too many residential properties need to be resurfaced and some boundary walls are in need of refurbishment; roadside areas to boundary walls are in need of attention also in some areas. Breac Cluain residential enjoys good maintenance to green areas however a number of roadside boundary walls here too need refurbishment; Kill Ard estate looks well; a name-stone should be provided for the beautiful small residential development at Gurteen North, landscaping at its entrance is magnificent.

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

Grass margins at both major entrances to the village look quite well and road surfaces and cycle/walking paths are good and there are great scenic views on entering Annascaul from the Tralee Road. We look forward to the badly need refurbishment of the Back Road by next year. The wirescape in the village centre is visually obtrusive and there are too many old timber service poles along the street which do nothing to enhance its appearance. Other street furniture looks well.

Concluding Remarks:

Annascaul's built environment features a handsome wide street with maturing trees; the majority of premises are nicely painted. A small area is being managed for wildlife and the proposed river walk to the lake with opportunities to connect with nature combined with looped walks make the village an attractive holiday destination and home.