

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Goresbridge** Ref: **915**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **274**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	264	274

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We are delighted to welcome Goresbridge Rural Development to the 2017 Tidy Towns competition. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit your vibrant village for the first time. Your core committee of seven members has a pool of volunteers to call on as required for specific tasks. We note that you are involved since 2017 – a lot has been achieved in the space of a few years.

Your entry form was well laid out though there is no need to submit the bland hard copy version as it makes the submission quite bulky. Interspersed photos help us to see the recent work that has been carried out. The 'before' and 'after' photos are particularly helpful. We would kindly ask that you save full protect details for the relevant category. The map was one of the better ones we've received this year – just ensure it can be easily removed/opened for use in navigating the village. Thank you for submitting your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan– this is helping you to prioritise your tasks and monitor your progress. You might consider laying out your next Plan under each of the TT category headings.

You are forging good links with outside agencies such as Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny Leader Partnership and Waterways Ireland. You are fortunate to have the valuable assistance of four Fas and two Tus workers. We are glad to hear that the local businesses in are in support of your efforts. You are engaging well with the local schools on a number of initiatives. . You have a wide range of communications channels including Facebook and local print media. Your efforts over the past eight years has galvanised the community, leading to an increased pride of place and a lovely village for all to enjoy.

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

The playground is a wonderful new amenity for Goresbridge younger residents. Is a sign planned for beside the school? Improvement works at the school are making a positive difference - new tarmacadam, basketball court etc. Is paint work planned at the church? It looked a little odd, perhaps colours are being tried out? It is good to hear that the Canal Store has recently been sold – we look forward to seeing what happens here.

It is reassuring that the new sewerage treatment Plant is up and running. Ongoing maintenance at the graveyards is noted. The soccer club looks poor enough – we look forward to the club having the resources to tidy up the boundary wall and inside entrance as this will make a great improvement to this approach road. The interesting design of the Ionad Dara Building was admired – the grounds are beautifully landscaped. The nearby mural improves the appearance of the derelict building, perhaps the window lines could be painted in to provide a more 'realistic' effect. The Health Centre is impressive with its tall windows and impressive trees and shrubs. The three-storey Garda Station is another building of note. Morris Oil Forecourt is neat. It was encouraging to see some traditional shopfront signage preserved and hopefully you can continue to ensure this is the case. Some buildings that caught the eye included Carroll's Select Bar, The Barrow Breeze, and John Kelly's bar/grocery/hardware, Could the window to the side of Thomas Murphy's be painted in and the door painted? Otherwise all was good here.

Maher's pub has an impressive window display. The Saplings school is nicely presented – could the top of the wall be painted soon?

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

It is encouraging to read that you are seeking professional advice when it comes to your landscape design. The new bed and stone feature on the Gowran road looks great as do the stone beds outside the graveyard. The latter contains a good mix of planting. The Red Mills is nicely screened from the road through clever use of landscaping. The lovely Church of Ireland was admired – are there plans to reseed and plant on the earth bank outside the gate? The Water Treatment Plant is nicely screened by effective tree planting. Containers on the Main St introduce a welcome splash of colour here. See also comments below under RSL category.

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

Your submission here is very comprehensive. You show an excellent understanding of the requirements of this category. You are considering local biodiversity in all your landscaping projects including approach roads. Your newly published Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Plan Feb 2017 (thank you for copy) will further help you develop projects and come up with new and appropriate actions. The river area is so impressive – the landscaping is stunning here yet we can see that you have also considered the bees, butterflies and other wildlife through your careful choice of plants. The river itself (SAC) is a haven for wildlife. You have consciously left certain areas 'aside' to encourage wildlife, such as the meadow beside the Saplings School. Your increased planting of perennials throughout the town was also observed. The river area has a well maintained picnic area that was busy with locals and visitors. Your ongoing awareness-raising through your social media channels are commended. You also hosted a walk for other Tidy Towns as well as the local community (end May '17). Do send us a photo/give us an update on what was learned? Members of your committee are working in earnest to implement actions in the Pollinator Plan and have even started keeping bees! This is serious commitment... For all the above reasons you have significantly reduced use of chemical sprays except where absolutely necessary. Do continue your efforts to educate the wider community on this issue. You have many other initiatives such as planting native trees, fruit trees, wildflowers, herbs. Excellent work. Keep up this approach.

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

Sustainability appears to be at the heart of everything you do in Gores bridge. Your newly opened (April 2016?) 2nd hand shop 'Tar Isteach' enables pre-loved items to have another life. We wish you much success with this worthwhile initiative. You are keeping Reuse in mind in all your Tidy Towns activities such as the reuse of paving slabs and recycling of shrubs to more suitable locations. We are impressed with your apple-pressing endeavours especially the fact that you can use apples that otherwise might go to waste. Your community garden is another initiative that ticks so many boxes in terms of this category – lower food miles, water harvesting, chemical-free, using your own compost etc. We were very impressed with the well-designed compost unit at the river area. It is interesting to note that the new water pipe line is going to save on a huge volume of water wastage due to previous leaks. You have plenty of interesting Reuse projects in Goresbridge, the Goresbridge Knitting and Crochet club being one such example. You promote Food Waste Prevention and all local recycling facilities. Well done to the 2nd level students for their fascinating Junk Kouture creation. We hope it was put on display in the local community! We are impressed that you are making nettle fertiliser for your community garden and have a sustainable way for fighting off the slugs! The Christmas Bazaar is another lovely concept to make waste-free gifts. We are impressed by the enterprising (not to mention sustainable) Gardening Group. An excellent submission here. Well done to all and keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your almost daily litter picks are paying off. Your Fas and Tus workers assist in this regard. You also have volunteers who look out for litter on their respective roads. Well done to all who got involved in National Spring Clean, particularly to the students of Scoil Bhride. Litter bins were well maintained. We didn't notice any litter during our visit so well done to all involved. The bottle banks were in neat order. Well done for segregating the litter for recycling. You also have your dog poo bin to maintain as well as two Mutt Mitt dispensers. Your quarterly letters to householders keeps people on message.

You are paying attention to 'Tidiness'. Thank you for the update regarding overhead wires. The remains of a sign outside the former Coffee Dock draw the eye for the wrong reason. Perhaps it could be removed? You are paying attention to weeds in public paved areas. We are impressed by your 'minimum use' of weed killer and your efforts to manually deal with the weeds. An arduous task we know. Overall a tidy appearance – well done.

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

You are engaging well with all residents and offer them strong encouragement. Your group appears to give strong support in terms of landscaping development and maintenance.

St. Brigid's Close is neatly presented with some attractive shrub planting. The attractive Community Building was noted here. We admired the ivy-clad house in the village centre. Rivercourt is a small but neat estate. Could the cones be removed from the green area to give a tidier impression? Cluain Mhuire was most impressive with its mix of old and new trees as well as attractive hedge planting. Planting at the entrance to Barrowmount enhances the overall impression. Occupied residences along the main streets were freshly painted and colourful. Some were enhanced with window boxes or tubs. We were impressed by well-maintained gardens along approach roads. Well done to all involved.

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

On the approach road into Green St, the 'Goresbridge' welcome stone makes a good first impression. A colourful perennial bed was observed at the next 'Welcome sign (Please name your approach roads on your map so we can reference specific projects). This approach is further enhanced by good tree planting and beech hedging. The bed with the upright limestone carries through the theme from the new bed seen earlier on the Gowran Rd. Neat stone walls were noted at the Horse Yard – the trees in time will further enhance the appearance as they mature. The linear bed opposite the Horse Yard presents a wilder effect but is lovely nonetheless. Good cycling signage was noted. You might consider a future painting scheme for farm gates within village boundaries.

Concluding Remarks:

Your drive/enthusiasm for a quality local environment and increased community participation is paying dividends in this competition. Keep up the good work Goresbridge and we wish you well in your future projects!