

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlanstown** Ref: **1143**
County: **Meath** Mark: **269**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	32	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	36
TOTAL MARK	450	255	269

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Carlanstown to the 2017 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensively completed entry form which was nicely laid out, contained concise information and was easy for the adjudicator to navigate. Your annotated hand drawn map was a great help on adjudication day. You have an active Tidy Towns committee of 8 members and seem to receive assistance from other volunteers on a regular basis, so well done in this. The success you have in getting local people to support your work is great to see from the photographs you supplied with your submission, and long may you continue to have this local support. Keeping links with your volunteers will be key to your on-going success and the larger your available workforce the easier it will be to complete tasks. The approach to developing the community facilities at Deerpark is a great example of collaborative community partnership and seems to be a success for you. You have developed an excellent working relationship with your school and we thank them for facilitating your fortnightly meetings. We hope your community plan gives you a strong framework to assess future projects. perhaps include a one page summary of the plans projects as they relate to Tidy Town competition categories for next years submission. We are glad to hear that participating in the competition has been so fruitful for your community and has resulted in an increased level of engagement between local residents.

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

Your village has a lovely mix of new and old and in spite of being dissected by a busy road retains a real sense of place and community. The effort you had put into liaising with your local authority to ensure the needs of local pedestrians was met in the design of the new bridge is admired. It has resulted in improved pedestrian linkages and the finish of the stone bridge is in keeping with the village environment. The works done to install new signage at Scoil Mhuire, a bright red colour, demonstrates how small interventions can show a building is cared for. It draws the eye to this important community building and is nicely designed. The red colour is carried through in your streetscapes to the old pumps and helps unify streetscape elements. Remove old shop signs in the town to reduce street clutter. The village store was a hive of activity on the day of the visit and very well presented. Do you know if there is a need for bicycle racks in the village, either for school children or passing tourists on cycling tours? Improving the village for residents could be followed by improvements to encourage cyclists.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new stone beds to the town signs were admired and brightly planted up. The smart new base to the seat was also in place. Although these were a very visible element contributing to your works in this category we recognise that a great effort has been put in by all in the proper planning of your new community open space. From the submission it seems that you have taken a very structured approach to funding, planning and implementing this

major landscape asset for your community. The paths had been installed on the day of the visit and we passed dog walkers enjoying the new amenity. Develop a tree planting strategy for the village and this will ensure a long term landscape structure for the village. We look forward to seeing tree planting advanced for next year's visit. We noted a couple of dead trees around the town and these should be replaced during the next planting season. The summer flowering window boxes at the school were admired. Do you plant these in winter flowering plants for the pupils to enjoy during the school year?

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

As you rightly say the development of the Deerpark Site hold such an opportunity to advance the biodiversity of your village. Its design as well as its management should be carefully considered to enhance its value. For example have you considered introducing a varied grass mowing regime at the park area to improve its habitat value? You could manage this amenity area in a 'hay meadow' system with a first cut in June. Alternatively keep the grass cut until May and then leave it uncut until August. To demonstrate that this is a deliberate choice of management, close-cut a strip, one metre wide, around the uncut area or cut a network of grass paths through the park. Ensure tree planting here includes native trees. We look forward to seeing the site being used by the school for nature talks and you footpath infrastructure should allow the safe passage of children to the amenity area. We hope the bug hotel in the schools ground has a high rate of occupancy.

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

Your community thrift shop seems to be a great success for you and we do not underestimate the time and commitment it takes to maintain and run a community based venture such as the. Well done to all involved. We wish the school well in working towards their first green flag for litter and waste and hope to see the flag flying for next year's visit. Ensure all works at the Deerpark are done in a sustainable way and any new community centre is planned and built to the highest green standards. On a more practical levels do you have a community compost facility? Are you Christmas tree lights LED or low energy? Do you plan to provide bike parking at Deerpark? Include more projects and ideas for next years submission.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

On adjudication day the village core was free of litter and this reflects well in your standing in the Meath anti-litter league. Your community's involvement in the An Taisce Spring Clean is good to see as it is an opportunity to highlight this topic on an annual basis. Have the schools been liaising with you with regard to the work they are doing towards their first litter and waste green flag? We wish you luck with progressing a junior tidy towns group for Carlanstown where they can practically implement all they are learning in this programme for the betterment of their village and its environment. Although we note that you have a plan in place to control weed growth along kerbs, some roadside kerbs needed weeding on the day of adjudication.

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

There are a range of residential types in your village and once again they were presented to a high standard on adjudication day. The residents' forum is a great idea and is working well. The lovely white painted roadside cottage at the junction with the school was very nicely presented. The entrance to O'Chearbhalainn Crescent was enhanced by a lovely pink toned planting area which added a dash of subtle colour to this area. As part of national tree week could perhaps an area of open space at the Village Green or Curragh Park be planted as a community orchard, using native Irish heritage fruit tree varieties? Contact the Irish Seed Savers Association for advice in specifying species linked particularly with County Meath. The improved visibility at the entrance to the Village green was noted with the name stone here well-tended.

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

Approach roads were well maintained with the town signs neatly maintained and easily read. Your adopt a stretch of road approach is a good way to ensure the communal open space areas in the village get enough attention. Establish a native hedge to the new timber post and wire mesh fence on the approach from Kells to improve its appearance and finish off the roadside planting here. The effort you have put into working with Meath County Council to ensure a safe environment for pedestrians in Carlanstown in applauded. Both in ensuring pedestrians were well provided for in the new bridge and that the extension of the villages' footpath infrastructure to the Deerpark site is part of the planned works. Well done in this.

Concluding Remarks:

Although the sun did not shine on us for our visit we very much enjoyed our stroll around your village. Well done to all involved in this year's application and thank you for your hard work and commitment. We admired your commitment to tackling issues in your community head on and this approach seems to be working for you. We wish you all the best for all your planned work in 2018.