

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drangan** Ref: **598**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **296**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	49	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	35
TOTAL MARK	450	288	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Drangan is very welcome to the 2017 tidy towns competition as we appreciate your involvement. We read from your application that your dedicated committee of 7 members has the support of an additional 20 volunteers and this indicates a high level of participation for a relatively small village. It is noted that 2 voluntary groups (the Community Centre Committee and the Ladies Club) and the GAA also help you out. The close links with Tipperary County Council are acknowledged and we wondered if you have asked Tus or the South Tipperary Development Company for assistance? If not, you should do so as both of these organisations have been a valuable source of advice, funding and manpower for other tidy towns committees. It is great to see that local businesses such as O'Hallorans Shop, the Archway Bar and Clogherhill landscapers providing you with help and support and in our view, this reflects the appreciation of the good work that you are doing. Your communication strategy seems effective but be aware that many tidy towns groups are now using social media as an effective means of publicising their activities and getting their message out. We are delighted to read that the Naomh Pdraig Schools have an active green school committee and that you have assisted the schoolchildren on their biodiversity projects. This is highly commendable and we would encourage you to identify other projects in which collaborations with the school children are possible. Thank you for your kind words on the competition and we are pleased to hear that it has had so many benefits locally. We would also like to thank you for your completed application form, map and photos which were very useful during adjudication. Have you considered completing a tidy towns action plan? Given that you already have a very high mark in this category (49 out of 60), a further increase in marks is unlikely without a tidy towns action plan.

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

This is the first time that we had visited Drangan and we were most impressed by what we saw. It appears that virtually all of the buildings that can be found here are historical style structures and this indicates that the original village remains intact. This is a rarity as most towns and villages have undergone significant change in recent times whereby older buildings have been removed in favour of more modern structures. The intact historical core and neat terraces of original dwellings provide Drangan with tremendous character and they give it a very distinctive appearance. The very high standard of presentation is a further attraction and the owners of the commercial premises that could be seen are deserving of praise for their efforts. O'Hallorans Shop set a very high standard while Slattery's garage, also impressed. The Archway Bar looked smart but the protruding Smithwick's and Guinness signs on this premises may be in need of attention. Maureens also looked very well. We loved the natural stone church and we admired the wonderful Father Stapleton centre immediately adjacent to it. The school looked exceptionally well with its carefully maintained grounds and the community centre looked bright and fresh in its new coat of paint. We would like to compliment the committee on its excellent work, painting the well and the grotto as both of these features drew positive attention. The work undertaken to the old Forge and the corner building opposite the well was also appreciated as it ensured that the overall standard of presentation throughout the village

remained high. We were also pleased to see timber hoarding in place around the Old Creamery screening it from view.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

A number of high quality landscaping and planting schemes were visible in Drangan during our visit. We particularly enjoyed the colourful and diverse summer flowering plants that were observed at the grotto as they were very effective at enhancing this pleasant feature. The work undertaken to the well was impressive as an interesting mix of plant species could be observed on one of the banks here. The extensive shrub beds to the front of the Community Centre impressed with their diversity and colour. The large and colourful planter tubs at the verge in front of the old creamery site were observed and they helped to enhance this vacant stretch. The hanging baskets at the junction of the Killenuale road and along the Main Street provide a warm summer colours and we would also like to compliment individual property owners and businesses for their contributions of high quality and well maintained planting boxes and baskets. The colourful rose beds, which could be seen opposite the well and adjacent Maureens were also appreciated. The work of the Committee in maintaining the Michael O'Brien playground area and pruning the trees is also acknowledged and appreciated.

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

It is clear from your projects and submission that there is a keen awareness among your committee and volunteers of the abundance of wildlife and biodiversity in your village and surrounding countryside. This is demonstrated by your decisions to plant shrubs such as buddleia to encourage bees and insects and to provide for a fallow open area at the well that has encouraged the growth of wildflowers and grasses. We would encourage you to explore these areas further. Consider carrying out a wildlife survey of the village or specific areas within the village and record the results. The findings of your survey could be used to prepare wildlife information signage. A wildlife trail is also an option that could be explored. Both of these suggestions would make excellent school projects, so why not speak to the school and see if they are interested in taking one of both of them on? We are also pleased to hear that many local farmers are involved in the ecological focus areas and we would like some further details on this in 2018.

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

We were delighted to hear that rainwater is being harvested for a number of purposes in your village including watering your plans and for use in the bathrooms in your community Hall. This is an excellent example of how simple actions can make a very big positive difference. Other examples of actions that you could easily undertake include; using your green waste to make compost, growing or propagating your own plants and seeds and using recycled materials in your day-to-day projects. We urge you to refer to the tidy towns handbook in order to find some ideas for projects that would work in your village. Or better still, come up your own innovative ways of reducing waste and using resources sustainably. Consider consulting with the School as schoolchildren have been the source of many great ideas for waste minimisation and sustainable resource use in the tidy towns competition. More could be done in raising awareness among your community about the need to change behaviour and reduce waste production. Why not host a waste minimisation workshop in the village with the assistance of the Environmental Awareness Officer of Tipperary County Council?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your committee will be delighted to hear that the standard of litter control observed on adjudication day was exceptionally high and not one piece of litter could be found anywhere in the village. This is an excellent performance and it illustrates that your hard-working and determined approach is proving effective and that you are winning the battle against litter. Well done also on involving the school's in your cleanups as we have no doubt that this is having a positive influence through increased awareness. The standard of tidiness was also particularly high and it was difficult to find fault with anything as signs were clean, roadsides and paths were free of weeds and public areas were neatly swept. However, we were surprised to find that the small entrance gate to the grotto seemed to have been overlooked during its maintenance and it would benefit from a fresh coat of paint. An untidy field gate and overgrown verge was spotted adjacent to Maureen's. While we were very impressed with the standard of signage, the stop sign at Hillview seems to be faded and untidy looking. An untidy verge and field gate could be spotted opposite the playground. It should be noted that these points are considered to be minor and they did not detract from your overall excellent performance in this category.

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

The strong level of support for your committee could clearly be seen during adjudication by the colourful attention that residents paid to the upkeep of their homes and properties. Virtually everyone achieved a high standard of presentation and this demonstrates the pride they feel in their village and their appreciation for the work of the tidy towns committee and volunteers. The residential estates also looked well with Hillview, setting a high standard with its attractive name stone, trimmed green areas and mature shrubs. Like the adjudicator in 2016, we were unable to see name stones at the Millers Lane estate and we wondered if there are any plans to provide these?

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

The work that your committee and volunteers have undertaken on the approach from Mullinahone was observed and the new entrance name stone in the neatly maintained verge provides a positive first impression on this key entrance to your village. This is an excellent project that has transformed a rather untidy and overgrown area into an attractive area. The neat and tidy verges and clean and visible signage were also appreciated. The approach

leading to Hillview achieved a good standard while the approach from Millers estate could be improved by ensuring that the 50 KPH signs are not obscured by vegetation.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit the lovely village of Drangan and we were most impressed by your thoughtful projects and your consistently high standard of work. Well done and keep up the good work as we look forward to returning again in 2018!