

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clashmore** Ref: **243**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **289**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	283	289

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Clashmore Tidy Towns Association – we are impressed at your long involvement in the competition, long may it continue. Your entry form was clear and concise – thank you. You have 6 committee members and a further 10 volunteers to call on as required for specific tasks.

You have strong links with outside agencies such as Waterford City & have the benefit of the Clár programme. Credit must also go to the many local groups and clubs that support your efforts. You have a variety of ways of communicating your messages including local newspaper, public meetings and Facebook page. Your engagement with the younger Clashmore residents is strong – through the three village school, after school club and Foróige group. Your map was most helpful in finding our way about the village – thank you for including a key to the various sites. We would kindly ask you to name your approach roads so that we can find our bearings on arrival. Do you have a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan that you could submit? Keep up the good work.

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

Clashmore is a peaceful rural village, set in rolling countryside. The church was neat as was the school with its attractive grounds – just watch the weeds along boundary kerbs. The old INTO sign is rather tired. Is this of historical significance or could it be removed? (We haven't come across on before). It is wonderful to see the picturesque Church of Ireland building now being used as a Heritage Centre. It is heartening to read that you now have a local shop again and we hope that local business can sustain it. An 'Siopa Nua' was neat and busy. All three pubs are nicely presented. In particular we admired Beresford's with its attractive green colour scheme complimented by window displays of geraniums.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The grotto is an important focal point in the village. All was well maintained here – the varied planting lush and green, grass areas neatly maintained. Thank you for your photo of spring bulbs in bloom here. We do feel that it might be time to consider removing the conifers in the flower bed as they are now over dominating the more appropriate planting. They have served their purpose well. The riverside 'Mill' area is another gem – all well maintained here with some attractive planting. Recent planting and landscaping at your 'welcome' signs gives a good first and last impression of Clashmore. Mature trees throughout the village further enhance the overall impression. More recent planting was noted by the timber bollards. You are rightly seeking expert advice regarding your landscaping plans and liaising with Waterford City & Co regarding new landscaping in selected areas. Well done.

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

Your rural setting ensures that you have a variety of habitats for wildlife to enjoy – from your natural hedgerows to the River Greagagh to St. Mochua's walk. The Raheen Quay walk is wonderful and signage was in good order – well done to the CE workers for keeping it so well. The information and awareness signs on Japanese Knotweed were noted. It is crucial that you stay strongly on message there as it's such a threat to existing habitats and riverbanks. Involving the local children in their very own 'Fairy Door' project is an innovative idea and we gladly note that it is giving families more of an interest in this lovely area. You show a strong appreciation of your river Greagagh and the importance of maintaining high water quality. The recent publication of your 50th anniversary brochure is a fitting way to celebrate your natural and built heritage. For a small community, you have a lot to offer! Keep building on this progress.

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

You show a good understanding of this category and how it links in with so many sectors of your community. You continue with your mulching, composting, school book recycling. We positively note that the laptop recycling company has extended to the other parish schools.

Well done to the schools for such a strong performance in the Green Schools Programme. Any feedback the survey in terms of energy efficiency improvements?

We are impressed that your Community Council has set up a 'Climate Change Response' sub-committee following on from joining the Sustainable Energy Community network. . There is a strong links between this committee and this category so we hope that you are all on the same page and assisting one another – do keep us updated on any developments.

Keep up the good work.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was very clean on the day of our visit so well done to all involved in your regular litter clean ups, particularly to the school children and Foroige club for playing their part. Well done to the Foroige group for 'adopting' the playground – it was spotless! We are delighted to hear that you have had an increased community involvement in recent months – you are putting this down to your online promotion, do you mean Facebook? You are further assisted by your CE scheme. Fly-tipping is a real nuisance for rural Tidy Towns groups and difficult to combat – you are working in partnership with Waterford City & Co Co to eliminate it in your area. All was in neat order at the GAA bottle banks. We liked the WCC sign here. It is good to hear that the GAA CE workers can monitor this site. Just keep on top of the weedy surface.

We can see from your application that you are tackling 'Tidiness' year by year and much progress has been made. Could the old flag be removed from Decie's bar?

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

Residences on the whole, were neatly presented with attractive gardens, boundaries and roadside verges. Clashmore has a mixture of traditional and modern houses. Uphill from the grotto (road name?) we observed a nicely landscaped development of stone-clad homes. Clos Naomh looked well – just watch for weeds along the kerb opposite. The rose-clad thatched cottage was admired. Modern townhouses blend in well with the existing village streetscape. We are glad to note that several areas now have their own residents groups and take responsibility for maintenance of their open spaces (and litter control we assume)? Your ongoing efforts to engage with owners of derelict houses are lauded. Well done to all involved.

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

Clashmore has lovely tree-lined roads and natural verges that will greatly encourage wildlife. Roads. The work-in-progress building the long wall on Chapel Lane is already having a positive impact and introducing a sense of cohesion to the village. We note that this road has been resurfaced. Thank you for the 'before' and 'after' photos of the recently refurbished Russell bridge. The 'before' and 'after' photos of the clean-up of the River Greagagh bridge show the significant improvement here. We look forward to hearing more about your planned traffic calming measures near the school.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you Clashmore for a well-thought out entry this year. We are impressed with your positive approach and progress across all competition categories. Keep up the good work and we wish you success with future projects.