

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castledaly** Ref: **221**
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **270**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	450	265	270

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome Castledaly Development to the 2017 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry, map with projects numbered on it, letter from Klilcleagh National School and photos. Your population category is Village A. Your committee of 8 is appropriate to your population. Having 12 volunteers is also in line with your population. You work closely with the GAA and Foroige. The frequency of your meetings is appropriate to your workload. The list of support bodies is missing Westmeath County Council. The Environment Officer in the local authority should be a source of assistance. Your channels of communication range from traditional print media to digital media. You probably use word of mouth as well. You tell us that you have no Junior Tidy Village. However, you do engage very well with the school and they enclosed a letter with your entry form. Congratulations to your 21st entry in this competition. You are veterans. The value of the competition to your community is very well set out in your entry form.

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

St Kieran's Church 1875 is on an elevated site overlooking the village. It is well presented. The bell is free standing. A wheelchair ramp has been added at the side of the church and it blends in very well. Lots of colourful year round planting in front of the church. Grass areas kerbed and well maintained. Opposite the church is the National School. It looks very well and is nicely painted. So, too, is its front wall and gates. All very fresh looking. 4 green flags. Well maintained grass area with trees and shrubs. The shelter has nice murals. Colourful water butt and bins. Car park spotless. The Community Centre was once the Kilcleigh National School 1864. It is well presented. Lots of colourful planting around it. Recycling bins behind it. The GAA building is well painted. Extensive playing areas. Walking track. Defibrillator on building. Car park tidy and it has a clothes recycling bin. Fitzgerald's pub and residence and the XL shop are both well presented. Castledaly Manor is an impressive complex of period buildings, some being renovated. Grounds include a pond. The cemetery on the Athlone Road near the village name sign is well strimmed, neat and tidy. Clean shelter. Car park has a rough, gravel surface. On the opposite side of the road what was once an entrance in an estate wall with a gate lodge, now has a derelict building shrouded in foliage. There is wire mesh security screening across the entrance. The disused filling station is an eyesore at the junction in the village. An effort has been made to soften this by placing some trees in tubs in front of it. Well done.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Castledaly Development is lucky to have a village that has so much to work with in this category. You have lovely, lush, well maintained verges, some wide and with mature trees. Also, good hedges and stone walls. You have an attractive base on which to put your flower beds, landscaping, seats, etc. We know from the Sustainable Waste

category that you harvest seeds to provide more flowers each year. Your photos show the wonderful display of daffodils that you had for the Spring, particularly the display at the Community Centre. The wildlife areas and the pond also provided primroses, cow slips and bluebells. The Community Centre also has a lovely large bed of flowers/landscaping.

The front of the Church has an impressive bank of year round texture and colour. In front of the GAA there are half barrels with shrubs and a 3 tier planter well filled with flowers. The junction L1404 Ballinahown has flower beds, nicely painted green and yellow seats, well maintained grass areas and flowers in an alcove in a wall. The picnic area (19) has an extensive grass area at the sweeping corner with a picnic table/seats, trees and shrubs. On a gravel base at the back of the Community Centre there are some flower containers with cartoon faces beside a little wishing well. It is good to see that someone has a sense of humour. The back wall beside the gravel bed is covered with colourful foliage and there is a long bed at its base with a mixture of shrubs and flowers.

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

The village has 2 designated wildlife areas. The first is beside the cemetery on the approach road from Athlone. The second is beside a school car park near the river bridge. Both have large signs. In the school area there are bird boxes and bird feeders. The bird boxes are in use and the birds are watched coming and going. In the interests of bio-diversity ivy is left untouched on walls. The school also has insect hotels in the trees. Ducks can be seen at the pond in Castledaly Manor. Also spring flowers. Bird box also put at the Community Centre. Castledaly is located in lush countryside with a variety of habitats including a river and pond. The countryside is teeming with wildlife. You have all the ingredients needed for projects that would score marks in this category.

The Tidy Towns handbook has advice and tips for this category. The local authority Environment Officer may have suggestions. It is not against the rules to copy projects that earned marks for other entrants in this competition.

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

In your entry form you list a number of action points but before commenting on them this adjudicator would like to use this opportunity to remind your Tidy Towns group that there has been a major shift in the priorities in this category. Marks in this category have gone from 20 marks to 50 marks. This was done in recognition of the time and effort given to this category by Tidy Towns groups. Also, this category has evolved in line with current waste prevention and 'best policy' guidelines. These guidelines are based on the revised Tidy Towns Handbook guidelines distributed to Tidy Towns groups in 2013. The EU Waste Management Hierarchy now puts waste prevention ahead of waste treatment in terms of priorities.

There was a National Conference on Sustainable Waste and Resource Management last year. In May of this year Westmeath County Council held a workshop on Tidy Towns and ways to increase your marks. If you do not already send a representative to these events then please contact the Environment Officer in your local authority to be put on their mailing list. Your school practices composting and water harvesting. The compost bin and the rain water butt can be seen at the school which has a green flag. Your entry form also tells us that the school children are encouraged to walk or cycle to school on Fridays from the football pitch. A mulch lawn mower is used to cut grass in the village. You encourage your community to use the bottle bank and the clothes bank. The bins are clean and their environs are tidy. At the community centre they harvest seeds for next years flowers. The school collects waste food in colourful bins made from recycled tyres. This is also used to feed hens.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

In May your organise an evening clean up where the community come out to pick litter, clean and sweep paths, deal with weeds, etc. That is a very good initiative as it signals the start of the Tidy Village season. An Taisce have been organising a National Spring Clean which takes place throughout the country in April. Hundreds of Tidy Towns entrants participate in it. An Taisce supply bags, litter pickers, etc. for the event. An Taisce's website gives full details. Householders are encouraged to keep their own areas clean and litter free. Parents encourage a "litter free" area around the playground and football pitch. Spraying of weeds is done in April. Thank you for the photo showing a team of volunteers scraping weeds, sweeping and cleaning the footpath and kerb. The donkey and cart that take the rubbish away steals the show. As a result of the efforts of the community, Tidy Towns volunteers, TUS and RSS workers, Foróige Kids and the donkey Castledaly was almost litter free on adjudication day.

Unfortunately on the wide grass verge opposite the entrance to Castledaly Manor there were 3 coca cola tins under a green and yellow seat under a tree. Nearby is a notice on a pole "Please keep off the grass". The notice is falling to pieces and should be removed. It is most unlikely that the tins were left by members of the community.

Composting is dealt with in the Sustainable Waste category and so is the recycling centre. You place a notice in the local newspaper and Mass bulletin asking residents to keep their area clean and tidy. That is a good initiative.

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

Castledaly is a relatively small village with just one residential neighbourhood – Killeagh Park. It has a name plaque set in a good stone wall. All of the residences are well presented. There is a large well maintained green with lots of trees. All neat and tidy. Individual houses in the village and on the approaches are generally well presented and some have well stocked gardens. There is a good community spirit in Castledaly and this is evident by the householders and landowners keeping their properties up to a high standard. The children's playground is colourful, neat and tidy. You tell us that a FAS worker looks after it and children are encouraged not to drop litter.

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

As you know approach roads are important in helping to create the first impression of a village. The approach from Athlone has the usual bi-lingual black and white village name sign in a raised brick bed with flowers. The verge is

well maintained and it has an insect corridor. Good first impression of Castledaly. From Ferbane (R444) there are good, well maintained verges. The usual name sign is in a raised brick flower bed at the 60km speed sign. The verge has an insect corridor and copper beech trees. Another good first impression. The approach from Moate also has the usual sign on a short, neat verge very close to the junction. A flower container with roses is at the base of the sign and is almost obscured by the hedge which needs to be cut back. A reasonable first impression. The L1404 from Ballinahown has a village sign on a well trimmed verge. A brick flower bed at the base of the sign and another on the opposite verge. Good first impression. The roads and footpaths in the village are good and are clean. The TUS and RSS workers do a good job keeping the grass short and trees cut back if there is a blind spot. The Council filled in potholes and improved the road to the Community Centre. There are "Children Crossing" signs at the Church and school.

Concluding Remarks:

Thank you Castledaly Development for an interesting visit to your village. On your 21st anniversary entry in this competition you have progressed once again. We look forward to receiving your entry in the 2018 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.