

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue** Ref: **95**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **279**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	50	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>279</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Boherbue (An Bóthar Buí) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your detailed entry form and supporting material. Your large committee and with volunteer support is working hard to improve your village, which is the spirit of TidyTowns, and we commend you all in this. Having representatives from other organisations on your committee is very worthwhile as news of your activities then get to a larger audience. You receive support from various state and semi state agencies and in addition from local clubs, schools and organisations whom you have listed in your application form. It is always good to see a TidyTowns group involved with other local bodies as this strengthens their standing in the area. Communicating your activities is also very important as you never know when someone new comes to town and are willing to help and become involved.

We love that you are involved in the local youth - supporting the National School as it aims for its next Green flag, being involved in the TY year of the Comprehensive School and bringing the Boherbue Ladybirds on nature walks. We wish you the very best as you set up a Junior Tidy Towns committee and we look forward to hearing of your joint activities in future years.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

There are a number of fine buildings in the village which add to the architectural character and merit of the area – the RC Church of the Immaculate Conception, the Garda Barracks, and Boherbue Comprehensive and National Schools. We see that dereliction was a focus for your activities this year and we did note the number of unoccupied premises which detract from your village. Your work to the derelict garage on the Mallow road is commendable; what an enormous task. You also upgraded two derelict houses on Main Street and in this too we commend your good work. There are some very well-maintained business properties and among them are the Boherbue Co-Op Super Valu store, Duhallow Food Training Centre and the Post Office. We loved the freshly painted kerbs which gave great definition to the road edges. Needless to say, the thatch house at the bend in the road on the Kanturk road caught our eye – please convey our compliments to the owners on its excellent condition.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

We loved the idea of 'Adopt a Patch' which gives ownership and responsibility to individuals to maintain their allocated 'Patch' throughout the year. We commend whoever has adopted the McAuliffe area as here, not only were the shrub beds 'renovated' but the edge trimming of the grass was probably one of the best we saw this year and we loved the white pavement edges between the open spaces and the roadway. Having the Girl Guides helping to plant bulbs as part of their activities is wonderful and engaging with them every August to assist you is admirable. The new Hearse House Garden (we love the name and its association) is a pollinator garden and had

foxgloves in full flower when we visited. Carrying out the large improvement works to the shrubberies on McAuliffe Avenue involved help from volunteers – Patsy Ducey and Con Breen – and we thank them for their contribution and assistance. We like the variety of flowers, plants and trees but we would have preferred to see bark mulch or other similar natural landscape material used between the plants as it is more suitable than gravel. We were delighted to see that the new planting in the church grounds is doing well including the new trees. Here too our comments regarding the use of gravel apply. The flower bed at the Garda Station is a great green lung in the centre of the village but be careful that it doesn't get too big and then obscure this very fine building. The low-level planting on the island road junction in the middle of the village was full of colour and the lavender was attracting a variety of buzzing bees. Elsewhere the planting beds were well maintained and as we said previously the 'Adopt a Patch' is working very well for you. There is however a lack of trees in your town. Would you consider approaching Cork Co Co and asking about build-outs along the streets in which trees (of a suitable variety) could be planted? Alternatively, where the footpaths are wide trees could be planted without interfering with pedestrian movement. While the buildings were brightly coloured, colour, with regard to flowers was lacking along the main street. Perhaps provide planters or flowerboxes for the business and residents who don't have gardens and which your team of volunteers could water so as to maintain them in good condition. These to be provided 'on loan' to the houseowner /business owner for the summer months for a minimal charge, which covers the cost of the boxes, planting material and watering costs. Also try putting some climbing shrubs/ plants in areas where the width of the footpath is restrictive – e.g. at the concrete yard.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

The Wildlife in Boherbue sign is located in an area full of pollinator flowers and shrubs which was alive with butterflies and bees when we visited. We wonder if you have any success with your bird boxes. Have any birds visited the boxes and hatched out? We were happy to see that native trees have been planted around the village which will attract bird and insect life. We recommend additional tree planting on the main street ... see above. Having a beekeeping and planting workshop was admirable. Has anyone, including local farmers, arranged to keep bees? These pollinators are vital for our food chain and beekeeping should be encouraged. Have you plans to deal with the knotweed which you've discovered at the rear of the Garda Barracks? What species of herbs did you plant at the England's garage? Are the community encourage to take some for their kitchen? You have quite a number of projects in this category Nature and Biodiversity in your locality, in your three year Development Plan and we look forward to seeing them being realised in future TidyTowns applications.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

You have broken this category into sections which is commendable. We read with interest the section on constructed wetlands and reed beds near the Brogeen River sounds like a very sustainable method of treating waste. Who maintains the reed bed project? Is it privately owned or managed by a co-op? The support of the ICA for walking may in time make a difference. We were delighted to read about car sharing and this should be encouraged particularly amongst parents bringing children to school. You have a great many re-use initiatives in your community - the local doctor collecting spectacles for Africa, the schools reducing photocopying etc, and residents sharing plants. All of these are highly commendable activities. We note that you await further direction regarding projects for Sustainability – doing more with less and we look forward to reading about them in next year's application form.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

The village was clear of litter and was generally clean but unfortunately there was a considerable amount of weed growth along the footpaths which gave the village a slightly untidy appearance. Your litter pick up is working well for you and we wonder if this could be extended to include weeding. Could property owners on the main streets be asked to remove the weeds growing outside their premises as this would cut down on the amount of work for your committee? Maybe make a 'Tidy Tuesday' where business and residents come out for ten minutes to clean (including weeding) in front of their properties. We have seen this elsewhere with great results. Your Spring Clean Day in April was very well attended which shows the standing of your organisation within the community. There are still a few business premises on the Kiskeam road in need of attention and we encourage you to approach the owners to reach a solution so that the village will be presentable on all fronts. Nightly litter-pick-ups is certainly a commitment and we wish you well in this Cork Co Co challenge. It is good to see that the litter bins are being used ... could Cork Co Co install bins which 'signal' when they need to be emptied?

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

The village consists of a mix of single and two storey houses which were, generally, in very good repair. The houses in the centre of the village are almost all two storey houses, some of which are terraced. Shop windows are visible in some, showing evidence of a past use. The houses are well maintained and many had been freshly painted with details – barge boards, eaves, window reveals, quoin stones etc. picked out in contrasting colours which added to their attractiveness.

The improvement to the shrub beds at McAuliffe Terrace was mentioned above but here we must mention the individuals houses many of which had beautifully maintained gardens. Other housing areas worth of mention are Vaughan Terrace, Meadow Court and O'Connell, Clancy and Galvin Terrace and while The Beeches development is being extended the existing green spaces and residences are well maintained.

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

The road improvement works by Cork Co Co will make a tremendous contribution to pedestrian safety in your

village. You are on the R577 Mallow to Ballydesmond (Tralee) road and walking to the graveyard was not an option as this is a dangerous road. We see that the works are almost complete and we look forward to visiting again to see the finished project. Grass margins and hedgerows on the approach roads were neatly trimmed and gave a clear view of the village entrances. Road signs and directional signs were generally clean and visible to motorists. We noticed some potholes and in quite a few areas edge breakup which need to be repaired. Road markings are in need of repainting to make them clear.

**Concluding Remarks:**

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your village and look forward to returning. Thank you for your entry and we look forward to seeing the projects in your 'New Challenges, Boherbue Tidy Village Development Plan 2018-2021' being undertaken. Thank you for entering the Super Valu Tidy Towns 2018 competition. For future applications we recommend that you number the projects in the application form and cross reference this numbering system to your map. We noted that there were quite a few projects marked new (N) in your application form but these were not cross-referenced to your map and so it took us quite a while to locate them.