

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annascaul** Ref: **989**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **268**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	39
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	30
TOTAL MARK	450	257	268

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

Céad fáilte roimh Annascaul, chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Supervalu don Bhliain 2018, agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project on this, its 60th year of making Ireland a better place. Many thanks to all those involved in the assembly of your entry this year. While Annascaul has been an entrant in Tidy Towns for many years, we understand that last year was your first entry as a reformed group. Great to have you back! On reading your submission in this category, the adjudicator was struck by how 'embedded' in the community the Annascaul Tidy Towns group has quickly become. As you say yourselves you are often called upon to assist with things outside what might be deemed 'usual' Tidy Towns activities. You are seen as a critical platform for community engagement and action or an 'honest broker' in some issues. This is excellent and underscores the utility of an effective Tidy Towns group in a community such as Annascaul. Examples of your work that illustrate this are the road improvement and the graveyard dedication. Finally, thank you for a well-written and very clear entry form. The map, while having an excellent key, could be improved. It is believed that you await a new multi-annual plan and you are wished every success in its implementation.

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

The 'big ticket' item for you in this category was the painting of Dan Foley's Pub - a great voluntary effort. Another new project was the refurbishment of the old graveyard. Well done for taking on the many elements that were no doubt involved in this. Among your future projects are the under-grounding of cables. Keep the pressure on in this regard. Annascaul. The school looked well but there was no evidence of biodiversity or environmental projects. There were lovely window-boxes here though. These could be painted. It was good to see a covered bicycle rack here and a footpath and bike lane that goes most of the way to the village. When will this be linked up?

An old garage is painted up and looks well. Annascaul House has been painted recently. Could a better sign for its fanlight be designed? Ashe's shop looks really well. The Community centre sign is in need of repainting. Dan Foley's pub and adjacent building look very good now. Hanafin's looks lively and well-painted too. Joan's Café is bright and has lovely planting in containers at the front. Teach Seán is a very pleasant building and the Toucan sign is lovely. Opposite Patcheen's Pub has nice window-boxes. O'Domhnall's Shop is a beautiful little premises. A penguin, rather than a toucan adorns the lovely South Pole Inn.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are no new projects listed by you in this category for this year. This is understandable enough given that maintenance will take so much of your time. You have a wide variety of features to maintain from The Tom Crean

Garden to smaller containers. The recycled ESB reels were noted with approval. The herb garden is a lovely ongoing project. The Jerome Connor Garden is a lovely space. Good efforts with wooden planters atop walls and in the blue recycled containers beside the stone wall.

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

A good solid entry here, Annascaul. Your new projects include the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from the riverbank. Make sure that you have experts advising you and experienced staff carrying out the treatment. You reference the All Ireland Pollinator Plan as a guidance document for your planting, very good. The Bat-friendly planting you describe will overlap significantly with the pollinator-friendly planting. Speaking of bats, you are encouraged to take part in the Daubenton's Bat surveys - easily done but gathers very important data.

Japanese Knotweed was seen in the area where buses are parked on the Tralee Road. There is more in the field opposite the B&B. Gunnera was seen by the river too. Both of these species will need to be controlled.

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

Thank you for the detail that you supply here. You have given us several examples of reuse and 'upcycling' too. You are participating in the Conscious Cup Campaign, very good. Rainwater harvesting is now the norm for you, minimise any extraction from the river, especially in dry conditions. Lots of solar water heating was noted on the day.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have a good-sized community employment scheme in Annascaul and that is a huge benefit. The Conscious Cup Campaign is mentioned here again. A lovely old pump needs to be painted again.

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

You do not list any new projects in this category this year. Again, it is acknowledged that this is one of the categories where far more time is required for maintenance. Also there is no pint in starting a project (managing a wildflower-rich grassland) if there are no resources left for its maintenance. Some lovely examples of vernacular buildings, intact original windows, plasterwork and even doors.

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

The biggest news in this last category is the resurfacing of the Back Road =, well done. You maintain the cycle path and verges on the east of the town on an ongoing basis. A future project is the completion of footpath on Back Road. At time of writing submission, this was being planned.

On the N86, the name sign looked okay. The Tom Crean signage was clean and the speed limit signage in good order too. Stone walls are in good condition and look very well. The GAA grounds are very well kept and the car-park here was in very good condition. Wall repair and wall-top planters were noted at Paddy's Palace. The blue railings and planters on the bridge look great.

Concluding Remarks:

A genuinely enjoyable visit to Annascaul, so thank you for making this such an interesting task. Great work is being done by what appears to be a very cohesive team. Well done to all involved.