

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knightstown** Ref: **342**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **325**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	46	47
Streetscape & Public Places	50	44	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	43	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39
TOTAL MARK	450	320	325

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

Céad fáilte roimh Knightstown, Baile an Ridire 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. First of all, allow the adjudicator to express admiration for all the work that so obviously went into your entry this year. As a group, you are known for your careful and thoughtful work and this year you did not disappoint. A lovely piece of work that was accompanied by a beautiful and accurate map. The adjudicator feels guilty about having written on this (but only in pencil that should rub off) as there was no key provided. Your entry also included a very concise and 'all-business' Long-term Plan. This will surely be of great benefit to you in the years ahead. Of years past, there are 35 in all and you have risen to the very top rungs of the competition's ladder. Along the way you have helped your community in countless ways, including preserving and celebrating your heritage, appreciating wildlife and even keeping people fit! Quite rightly you can take the credit for making Knightstown what it is today.

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

Big news in this category is the construction of a new hospital, a very significant facility for Knightstown and Valentia Island. Also new, though on a smaller scale is your well feature on Shore Road. Attracting lots of attention on the day were the Stocks! Several parents were explaining their purpose to some dubious-looking children. New playground equipment is another feature for this category. You have a wealth of lovely built features so apologies to those that are not mentioned. Looking great were: The Clocktower, the Rocket/Weigh House, The Coffee Dock (a new addition - to this adjudicator at least). The toilet block was beautifully painted and planters admired. Nearby, the row of interpretive signs were spotless. The Royal Valentia looked just beautiful. The Church Rose Window Project appears to be ongoing. The Church of Ireland grounds are a splendid little tour all unto themselves.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Some existing areas got a facelift and the Fairy Village was remade. It is acknowledged that maintenance and upkeep are hugely time-consuming aspects of this category and that new projects can't be taken on at the expense of existing areas. So, credit to you for the high quality of maintenance here. All that said, you are working on the development of a Nature Garden at Altazamuth Walk. Very good.

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

Watch out for repetition in your entry form. The Nature Walk appears again. Granted, this is no small undertaking

and the adjudicator was hugely impressed with your level of planning. You have also sought outside assistance from experts. Very good. You correctly describe your seawater as a natural amenity and the new waste water treatment plant is a vital link in the ecology chain here. On the day dozens of people, including international students were enjoying the harbour and beach in absolutely glorious sunshine.

Japanese Knotweed is a serious problem for you. The adjudicator would question why this has been allowed to spread to the extent that it has. This plant shouldn't be allowed to spread within tourist-frequented areas for fear of inadvertent spread. Seek expert advice, please. Gunnera is less an issue but still should be to the front of your minds for removal. The Pollinator-friendly Park is excellent. The signage is super. The adjudicator loved the little walk and the connectivity with other public areas.

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

A good entry here, Knightstown, with many initiatives listed, from the everyday to the downright fascinating. The adjudicator was interested to read of the abundance of local food suppliers - excellent. The Valentia Island Energy Coop sounds like an amazing project. Stay on this one! The adjudicator would love to see a Tidy Towns group of your pedigree front and centre in a ground-breaking project such as this. Back on the day-to-day stuff. Your scheme to refund the 15c per coffee is excellent and should be lauded. Well done.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

No new projects listed here, but again, this is one of the categories where you have to work hard to hold the high ground you've won in the fight against litter and clutter. 26 large bags collected in Spring Clean this year. Ok, but how does this stack up against last year? We'd love to see groups like yours looking at trends. You have done something very valuable for us all in the last 2 years - decommissioning all your litterbins between October and May: with success. Now that this has been shown to work, are you telling anyone else about this?

Generally speaking, Knightstown was very tidy on the day. The Fisherman's Pier was remarkably neat. An old B&B sign is hidden but rotting away here. Don't have the Heritage Centre sign on the ground like that. It should be on a pole or not at all. The old National Monuments (steel) sign is rusting away. Keep the upright but get a new sign. Litterbins looked great - excellently clean and so too the dog litter receptacles. The anti-litter signage was admired but someone has taken issue with the 'no weeds' statement. There may be a point in this. The pump and area surrounding looked lovely. Overall signage was in very good condition.

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

Another good solid entry here, Knightstown. Once again, lots of maintenance make up the lion's share of your tasks. Your mooted Special Award is an excellent idea and this model has worked very well in other Tidy Towns areas. Across the board, there were great examples of care and good upkeep. It was hard to tell which were holiday homes and which year-round residences.

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

In your final category, you again list many worthwhile endeavours. Some improvements to your road areas have made a big difference. Peter Street is in your sights for improvement in the near future. An idea (which has surely occurred to you already) might be a simple heritage trail style project wherein some of the lovely names of your streets are explained (derivation, history, past use etc.).

The Shore Road is a lovely approach. It was good to see lots of children out playing on this lovely day. Gardens that were seen on this road were in the main very neat. The Community Park is gorgeous. The walking trail is splendid and it is wheelchair-friendly with appropriate signage. Very good. The playground was very much in use on day of visit. The adjudicator overheard a (circa) 10-year-old girl declare it 'the best thing ever'. The Basketball and tennis courts were in perfect order.

Concluding Remarks:

As always, a pleasure to be here, Knightstown. You are maintaining a great standard but pushing it on further. From semaphore to sustainable planting you are giving off all the right signals. Great to have you in Tidy Towns. Thanks for all your hard work.