

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Caragh</b>	Ref: <b>1985</b>
County: <b>Kildare</b>	Mark: <b>243</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>02/07/2018</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	32	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	18	19
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	45
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>243</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Carragh Cearthach chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Caragh Tidy Towns is most welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2018. Thank you for your splendid Application Form, Updated Multi-Annual Plan, Plant and Tree Survey and hand drawn reference Map. Your submission was very well laid out, clear and concise and provided plenty of good quality information which was most appreciated by the adjudicator. The map and drawing submitted with the application providing an overview of the village with the items of interest clearly shown was superb, probably the best example of a village map the adjudicator has seen this year. Well done. You have a Committee comprising 4 members, with 6 volunteers, and you meet on a monthly basis and carry out works for two hours on Wednesday evenings between April and September. Thanks are due to John Malone Landscaping and Ian McGarry of Caragh Nurseries and Caragh Community Centre who assist you with your seasonal planting projects and provide invaluable advice and support throughout the year. You also engage with a number local organisations and businesses to further your goals including local tradespeople, Kildare County Council, An Taisce, Naas Tidy Towns and Local Councillors etc. Communication with the public is mainly through face to face encounters on the main street, and a Whatsapp Group and Facebook page. It is good to see that the number of your Facebook followers has increased by 18% since 2017. This could be a useful vehicle to expand your volunteer base in the coming years. Well done to the School for securing the Biodiversity Flag in 2017 and the transition year students from Naas CBS who assisted with litter picking and other maintenance work in the village and the manufacture and erection of bird boxes. It is heartening to note that the work of the Tidy Towns Committee in recent years is encouraging more passers-by to stop off in the village and to explore the local heritage in the area.

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

The built environment and streetscape of Caragh Village is generally presented to a high standard. A landmark building situated on an elevated site above the village is Caragh Church, which is a wonderful imposing structure. The Church and grounds were very well maintained and the attractive avenue of trees leading up to the main entrance of the Church was particularly admired. The Church car park was well landscaped and was neat and tidy. Caragh School is a good example of quality modern architecture and fits in very well with the streetscape of the village. It would be good to introduce the Irish name of the school on the façade, as this appeared to be missing. The presentation of Cooke's Bar was superb. The adjacent residential property would be improved with some painting. The Community Centre and grounds were visited and this was a hive of activity with attendees at a summer GAA camp enjoying the good weather.

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

The beech hedge planting along the wall on the approach to the Church is establishing very well. This is important as the hedge will eventually screen from view of this newly built concrete block wall along the public road. Father Kinsella Park and was visited. This is a wonderful amenity in Caragh, complete with seating and perimeter paths, which were getting good use. Are playing pitches provided here during the Winter months? If not, it would be good to try and establish a wildflower meadow at a suitable location in the Park in the interest of biodiversity and to help reduce maintenance costs and fossil fuel usage. A Community Garden/Orchard might also be pursued if not already planned and perhaps some adult exercise equipment could be installed along the perimeter path. A children's playground here would also be a positive development for young families in the village. Consideration should be given to providing native hedge planting along the perimeter fencing. Planting schemes and floral displays in the village were generally to a high standard and pollinator friendly planting was noted. It is great to see you are making good progress with Winter bulb planting schemes, which provide colourful displays in Spring. The roadside margins in Caragh are generally very suitable for bulb planting and these schemes could be expanded, where possible.

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

The bug hotel on the site opposite Cooke's Bar was noted. There is an old sign for Caragh nurseries located here which detracts from the general area. The wildflower planting at Caragh Lawns has established well and was greatly enjoyed. Well done to the Gaisce TY student who made the bird boxes which you have placed around the village. Is the usage of these boxes being monitored? This could be a good project for the school. The nameplate project for identifying the trees in the village is also a good initiative and we wish you well with this.

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

The survey carried out by Transition Year students on waste and water usage provided some interesting results. There is clearly more to be done in Caragh in the area of water conservation and composting of organic waste. We wish you well with the project to install water butts at the church and at local businesses. The issue of the use of energy and resources, transport and reducing CO2 emissions are also important themes under this category. The installation of solar panels is now standard practice in new developments. It would be good to see this approach extended to the older housing stock to continue to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and also to reduce CO2 emissions. Promoting the use of low carbon vehicles and pursuing the installation of an electric car charge point(s) in the village, would be worthwhile. Plans to extend a greenway along the River Liffey could be considered, with cycle parking provided at the lay-by near the Liffey Bridge. Have you tried a village car-pooling arrangement? The further promotion of grant aid for the installation of wall and attic insulation on older building stock, the greater use of solar panels on roofs and heat exchange units to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses, are all possible initiatives to promote. Grants are available for this work. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities.

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

You completed a major Spring Clean of the village in April and the ongoing weekly clean ups on Wednesdays through the summer months has resulted in a neat and tidy village. There seems to be an issue with the emptying of the bin opposite the Centra shop which was overflowing and there was a large pizza box lying on the footpath here. You have requested local businesses to install additional bins to deal with this and hopefully they will accede to your request. It is good to see you have a sign to alert motorists of your presence, when working along approach roads – safety is of paramount importance.

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

The herbaceous perennial and pollinator friendly planting at the entrance to Old Chapel Grove estate was greatly admired. The 'children at play signs' in this estate are however, past their usage date and should be renewed. Some work is also required in relation to the maintenance of street trees in this estate i.e. the repair or ties and stakes etc. Consideration should be given to planting a beech hedge along the timber post and wire fence on the roadside boundary of Church View estate. The bird boxes erected on the trees at the entrance to this estate were noted positively. However, there was a car parked on the green area at the entrance to the estate which did not enhance this area. The Streams estate was visited and the gardens, roadside margins, street trees and open spaces were all well-presented and maintained. Caragh View estate was visited and this estate looked well with good tree planting. The ESB Kiosk situated on the open space is unsightly and could be screened from view with appropriate hedge planting.

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

The lay-by at the Liffey Bridge was visited and the colourful planting schemes adjoining the wall near the river were noted positively. The stepped pedestrian access to the river here is very difficult to negotiate and it is recommended that a more suitable arrangement be put in place to provide safe public access here. Perhaps the possibility of developing a Riverside Nature Park at this location in the future should be considered. There are a considerable number of galvanised utility junction boxes at this location which detract from the area. Could these be painted? The presentation of the boundary wall has been significantly improved with cleaning - well done. However the wall is cracked in places and should be examined further. A suitably designed pedestrian bridge should also be provided adjacent to the existing Liffey Bridge, to enhance safety and connectivity here. Road surfaces on the approach to Caragh from Naas could be improved with re-surfacing and remarking works. The approach to Caragh from Allenwood was very attractive with natural hedgerows on both sides of the road and these were well-maintained and Road surfaces and markings were good.

**Concluding Remarks:**

There is great potential to enhance and improve the existing amenities in Caragh village for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike. We wish you well with your future endeavours in the competition.