

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Celbridge** Ref: **338**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **318**
Category: **G** Date(s): **28/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	39	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
TOTAL MARK	450	311	318

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Celbridge Cill Droichid chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Celbridge Tidy Towns is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition 2018, your 26th year entering the Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive application and submission which summarises the range of activities and projects which you have been progressing in the last year or are planning for the future. The map of your town enclosed with your application was very clear and easy to read and was very helpful to the Adjudicator in navigating around the Town. You arrange monthly meetings of your Tidy Towns Committee and committee members are represented on various external bodies most notably the Twinning with Versailles Project which appears to be progressing well. The subdivision of Celbridge Tidy Towns into two subcommittees dealing separately with flowers/planting and tourism/heritage is a useful and effective way to organise your work and to prevent any overlap of activities and links in with the Celbridge Tourism and Heritage Forum work. Your involvement with local Festivals helps you engage with the local Community highlighting the important work that you do. It is good to note that you have a close working relationship with Kildare County Council and the Municipal District, as the support of the local authority is crucial in so many of the projects you are progressing. The support of local businesses is also so important and your linkage with Celbridge Business Association and individual businesses such as SuperValu and Tesco is vital to your fundraising activities. You seek to maximise community engagement in your work through the progressing of projects which are very visible to the public, for example painting and the removal of clutter on Main Street. You also use a local Community Notice Board and 'Celbridge Information' Facebook Page to communicate your message. Your strong links with local schools are acknowledged and this is important in relation to educational awareness and also future proofing the organisation. The flagship project for your town this year is the undergrounding of overhead ESB cables on the Main Street and no doubt this will make a significant impact when completed. Thank you for the interim Celbridge Tidy Towns 5-Year Plan Update which is both comprehensive and ambitious.

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

Celbridge Town is endowed with many fine heritage buildings of great character and distinction. It is good that the Celbridge Tidy Towns keeps an oversight on developments and presentation in this area and also contributes to the Celbridge Local Area Plan. The Village Renewal Scheme painting programme has been very beneficial to the appearance of buildings along Main Street. Through traffic is a significant issue in the centre of the town which detracts from the visitor experience and it was wondered whether there were plans in the future to build an Inner Relief Road to deal with this. Road works were in progress during the visit and it is assumed this related to the cable undergrounding works. The Mill Complex is a very interesting property containing as it does a Community operated water turbine powered from the River Liffey and producing electricity. It is heartening to see so many enterprises located here adding vibrancy to the built heritage. The history of the Mill was intriguing and the Information provided

on the Heritage Sign was of great interest to the visitor. The overall character of the streetscape along Celbridge Main Street is very appealing and the presentation of many of the business premises was greatly admired. Of particular note in this regard included The Duck licensed premises, the Village Inn, Centra, Michelangelo's Restaurant and The Castletown Inn. The floral displays and plantings in the vicinity of Saint Patricks Church were particularly admired and added wonderful colour to the streetscape in this area. The pedestrian guard railing to the front of the Ulster bank building would benefit from painting. Some properties in the Town could be re-examined in terms of the quality and design of their frontage along the street namely, Macaris, Bridge Barbers, Legend Nails, Hawaii and Fenix Tanning Studios and Paddy Power betting premises. It is noted that there are a number of unoccupied premises in the town such as Gogartys and a nearby premises. This is an issue causing blight in many towns and it is hoped that these wonderful heritage properties can be brought into use in the near future. The frontage of Kildrough House, an example of an early Georgian Merchants house, was particularly noteworthy. Historical information was well presented particularly relating to the connection of Celbridge with Arthur Guinness. The entrance to Castletown House with its imposing railings and piers was magnificent and provided a wonderful vista at the end of Main Street. The Colour Trend commercial premises was superbly presented with hanging baskets at the entrance and nicely painted wall along the frontage. Donaghcomper graveyard was visited and the wonderful castellated stone wall along the frontage was admired. Perhaps there is a possibility to undertake a restoration project on the Mediaeval Church here using a local youth training programme. Proposed tree planting along the Main Street should be carefully chosen to ensure excessive pruning is not required in the future and underground services are not impacted. The use of fastigate upright growing trees might be considered in this context.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The many floral displays and plantings provided at strategic locations throughout the town were greatly admired and Celbridge Tidy Towns is applauded for all the work carried on this as it makes a significant impact in relation to the overall presentation of the Town. The extensive bulb planting carried out along approaches to the town is also important in this regard and thank you for the photographs showing these wonderful displays at Springtime. The Workhouse/Famine Graveyard was visited and it is noted that the cobbled area was recently power washed by Celbridge Tidy Towns. This green area is maintained to a high standard and the historical information provided on the workhouses in Ireland was most interesting. The screen planting on the adjoining Healthcare premises together with the green wall on the building ensure the retention of the visual amenity here - well done to Celbridge Tidy Towns for requesting these additions. The Tea Lane graveyard was visited and the presentation of the entrance to the graveyard along the road was superb. The historical information on the graveyard was expertly presented and very informative particularly in relation to the history of the Dease family. It has to be said that Tea Lane graveyard was one of the best presented, restored and interpreted historic graveyards this adjudicator has seen to date. The planting at the end of the area known as the Slip was admired. Perhaps improved public access to the river could be provided here in the form of a small seating area on the riverbank. Improved public access to the River Liffey would also be desirable in the vicinity of the Liffey Bridge, where this is possible as part of any future proposals to improve pedestrian movement across the bridge. The grotto area is a wonderful feature in the town. However, it was noted that weeds are beginning to encroach on the paving here.

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

The control of invasive species is a challenging theme for authorities at present and it is laudable that Celbridge Tidy Towns is assisting Kildare County Council in fighting this scourge in the landscape. Well done on your 'Celbridge Naturally' Project which aims to promote public awareness on the two major biodiversity assets in Celbridge namely the River Liffey and Castletown parklands. The potential for improving public access and habitat conservation along the River Liffey is significant and should be included in any future plans for the development of the Town. You are making some strides under this category in relation to the erection of swift and bird nest boxes in Celbridge, in conjunction with Birdwatch Ireland and Wild Kildare.

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

Your main sphere of activity under this category, in conjunction with St. Wolstan's Community School, was the carrying out of a Food Waste Survey with local businesses in order to improve awareness of this topic. No doubt the findings will be useful in determining strategies to guide how businesses might in the future avoid high levels of food wastage which is a major challenge for western society today. You continue to engage with sustainable waste management issues including recycling, composting and re-use of goods and liaise with schools regarding their green flag programmes. For next years competition, you could consider further initiatives under this category such as developing an on-site car-pooling and park and ride facility, promoting the use of low carbon vehicles, pursuing the installation of additional electric car charge point(s) in the Town and extending cycle parking facilities. The possible development of greenways and cycle routes in the wider area could be investigated, where this is feasible. 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 is a worthwhile initiative to consider. The greater use of water butts and tanks to harvest rainwater from gutters to assist in the watering of private gardens and floral displays during the Summer period might also be further encouraged. 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:

It is recognised that much of the essential work carried out under this category is by its nature related to ongoing maintenance and intervention. Your efforts regarding the decluttering of the Main Street e.g the removal of

redundant poles and signs, improving the appearance of private premises, removal of graffiti and the undergrounding of overhead wires is a critical element of this work and you have been very successful to date. You carry our litter picks on approach roads, in the Town Centre area, in the woodlands behind Castletown House, at other litter blackspots and problem sites and provide assistance with litter removal after public events etc . Some dumping was noted in the public car park beside the River Liffey spillway on the Clane Road. Improved public access along the Liffey spillway at this location would be a positive step.

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

The organisation of the Tidy Estates Competition and Awards Night by Celbridge Tidy Towns, together with providing advice and assistance on improvement works to individual estates and Residents Associations, has no doubt helped to raise standards of presentation over the years. Estates in Celbridge are generally presented to a high standard with well landscaped open spaces, entrances and private gardens, tidy roadside margins, footpaths and good quality street trees. The attractive entrance and avenue of trees at Abbey Farm estate were admired. Some screen planting could be carried out around the ESB kiosk on the open space here. At St. Raphaels Manor estate the avenue of trees along St. Raphael's Avenue caught the eye. Kiladoon Park estate presented a well landscaped entrance, open spaces and fine street trees. Other estates worthy of mention here included Oakleigh and St Wolstan Abbey.

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

It is noted that following last year's adjudication the gates on the road up to Tea Lane have been painted – a big improvement here well done. This is just part of a lengthy list of activities and projects undertaken by Celbridge Tidy Towns under this category. In general terms the approach roads into Celbridge were presented to a very high standard with attractive grass margins, walls, trees, shrubberies, hedgerows and roundabouts, which enhance the visual experience for road users entering the town. Road surfaces and markings and road signage are generally good although on the Clane approach the road markings could be renewed.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Celbridge Historic Town. You have achieved much in the last year as outlined in your very comprehensive submission and all the works which have been noted on site. We wish you well in your future endeavours.