

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Prosperous** Ref: **780**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **240**
Category: **C** Date(s): **29/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	32	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	19	19
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	10	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	44	44
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27	28
TOTAL MARK	450	236	240

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Prosperous An Chorchoill chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Prosperous Tidy Towns Association is very welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2018 your 6th year entering the Competition. Thank you for your application form and hand-drawn map. The map provided with your application was excellent. It was very clear and pinpointed the location of all the roads and main features in the village and works planned or undertaken by the Tidy Towns Association and was very helpful in the adjudication of your village. You have a loyal Committee of 8 members who meet once per month, with a further 12-14 Volunteers who assist with your work. You receive support from the Credit Union, Kildare County Council and DREHID. Communication with the general public is through Facebook, Church Newsletter, Public Notices and the Prosperous Community Newsletter. It is good that local residents are beginning to see some improvements in the presentation of the village and are taking more of an interest in helping to keep it looking well.

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

The adjudicator travelled into Prosperous from the Clane direction and it was intriguing to note that the village has two main streets one old and one new. The building most notable as one enters the village is the Catholic Church, the Church of our Lady and Saint Joseph and another fine building, the Prosperous National School. The Church grounds with colourful flower tubs were very well presented as was the school. The walls at the entrance to staff car park at the school are somewhat discoloured and would benefit from painting. There is also a dead tree adjoining the entrance here. There is a considerable amount of space in front of Dowling's Licensed premises which would enable a number of fastigiate upright growing trees to be planted here, and these would improve the appearance of the area. The existing flagpoles and litter bins at Dowling's Licensed premises would benefit from painting. A renewal of the car park markings here would also enhance this area. The surfacing of the car park to the rear of Christy's Licensed premises in tarmac would also be beneficial. The advertising sign for JG Bookmakers is somewhat intrusive and this should be looked at in terms of providing more appropriate signage. It is noted that you have painted the unoccupied dwelling on the Maynooth Road and have been involved in organising the commemoration of the battle of Prosperous in 1798. The Hair Factory shopfront was admired and the residential properties located on old Main Street were superbly presented. The old water pump needs painting. One wonders if the old bus shelter structure on New Main Street still in use – if not consider removing this?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your flagship project under this category is the development of a new park on a site adjoining New Main street (No. 17 on the map). This site was inspected and consists of a well - developed wetland of considerable wildlife value.

Have you considered the possibility of retaining the site in its current condition as a wildlife retreat area and providing limited public access by way of suspended boardwalks etc.? It is noted that the entrance to Brooksmill has been landscaped removing a long-standing eyesore here. The paved islands along the road in the vicinity of the existing car park at Dowlings Licensed premises could be significantly enhanced with new tree planting.

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

You are placing a number of bird and bat boxes made by the Men's Shed around the village. It would be good to survey and monitor these to establish usage patterns etc. Have you looked at the role of pollinators and the possibility of planting pollinator friendly planting schemes. Wildflower meadows are also a good initiative to pursue under this category. Are there any sites near the village which might be suitable for development and management as a wildflower meadow?

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

It is good to note that steps have been taken to progress a car-pooling initiative from a base at the Community Car Park. Perhaps these arrangements can be formalised to a greater extent in the future. You are also looking at a site for Community Composting. This could form part of a Community Garden on a suitable site in the village, perhaps on an open space area, where vegetables and fruit can be grown for community use and serve as an educational resource. Other initiatives under this category could include promoting the use of low carbon vehicles, pursuing the installation of electric car charge point(s) in the village and extending cycle parking facilities in the village and along the Canal. The possible development of greenways/blueways along the Canal and other cycle routes in the 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 are worthwhile initiatives to consider. The use of water butts for the watering and flower boxes and tubs and private gardens during the Summer period is a good water conservation measure. 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:

Arrangements are in place in Prosperous to deal with litter on an ongoing basis through regular litter picks and clean ups. It is recognised that much of the litter found along roadside verges etc. is generated from passing traffic and it is good to note that residents and businesses are now cleaning outside their own premises to keep their areas litter free. On a walk around the village, Prosperous was found to be largely litter free although some litter was noted on the cycle route along the site of the proposed Park, in the vicinity of the Secondary School. Involving school children in litter patrols is a good awareness-raising initiative – well done to all involved with these.

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

The beautifully presented thatched cottage on the approach from Edenderry is worthy of special mention here. The housing estates in Prosperous are generally well maintained. Gorette Terrace was visited and it was noted that herbicides have been used around trees and obstacles on the open space. A bark mulch can be an acceptable finish around trees to suppress weeds and this also looks very well. At the Downings estate there were very well maintained open spaces although some discarded green waste was noted here. Perhaps there is demand for a community composter in this area. At Barrington Court the estate was generally well presented although some weeds were noted along kerbs and a dead tree and branch remained on the open space. A Prosperous Tidy Estates Competition would be a good initiative to encourage friendly rivalry between estates which would ensure the standard of presentation of estates is maintained and improved over time.

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

It is recognised that some works in relation to the upgrading and maintenance of approach roads are on hold pending the formulation of a strategy for the future development of the village as a whole. Roadside margins on all approaches are generally well maintained. The approaches to Prosperous are mostly characterised by well-developed agricultural hedgerows, where natural vegetation is allowed to express itself, subject to the requirements of sight lines and road safety. Road surfaces and markings on the approach roads to the village are generally good, although some road signs do need cleaning.

Concluding Remarks:

It is heartening that the works undertaken by Prosperous Tidy Towns Association in recent years has resulted in many more people taking pride in the presentation of their village and providing positive feedback to Committee Members and Volunteers. This improved community spirit can be progressively built upon and you are wished very well in your future endeavours this regard.