

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallins** Ref: **384**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **286**
Category: **D** Date(s): **27/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43	44
Streetscape & Public Places	50	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
TOTAL MARK	450	282	286

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Sallins Na Solláin chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. The village of Sallins is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018, your 12th year to enter the Competition. Thank you for your application form and hand drawn map together with Appendices 1&2 which set out all the projects completed and planned this year. The map provided with your entry was informative. It is good to include the locations and descriptions of the various projects as a key on the map, as well as numbers, for ease of reference. Your Committee of eight members and three volunteers meets fortnightly and monthly meetings are held with Sallins Community Council. The number of 3 volunteers is quite small for a Town the size of Sallins. Perhaps an initiative to recruit more volunteers in the future to engage with Tidy Towns should be considered. Sometimes a high-profile project carried out locally can help to motivate people to join in your cause and foster greater community engagement. Your Committee is supported by a range of organisations and you communicate with the general public through Facebook, Parish Newsletter, Radio KFM, noticeboards, local Newspapers and Radio. There are strong links to local schools through the Green Flag programme and transition year students regularly volunteer to undertake Tidy Towns works. It is noted that over the years your work has given rise to a greater awareness of tidiness, wildlife and recycling issues and has generated a sense of pride amongst local residents in relation to the overall presentation of the village.

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

Sallins has developed rapidly in recent years doubling its population in that time but it still has a strong village feel. The activities associated with boating in the area of the Canal Harbour is an important feature of the village and adds greatly to the character of the streetscape and quality of the public spaces in Sallins. The weather was sweltering hot on the day of adjudication and it was great to view the public moorings on the Canal with all the boats and barges parked up and many people sitting outside enjoying the sunshine. The grounds of St. Lawrence National School were visited and were very well maintained and it was noted the school has been awarded 3 green flags – well done to all involved. The swing gate access to the Canal tow path is in need of painting. The railings along the road opposite The Orchard Houses and a number of litter bins in the area also need painting and freshening up. The residential properties at The Orchard were greatly admired and the painted unoccupied premises beside Cooks Restaurant and Wine Bar did not detract from the streetscape. The unoccupied premises beside Annie's Hair salon however, currently detracts from this area. You may consider restoring the old water pump in the vicinity of Sallins GAA Club. You have made good efforts to deal with the unoccupied premises in the village and the planted flower boxes etc. have also enhanced the streetscape of the village area. The Railway Station carpark and environs would benefit from some tree planting as the overall appearance is somewhat drab and does not enhance the visitor's first impression of Sallins. It is noted that you have successfully applied for a grant from Kildare County Council to purchase street furniture and seats together with printed inserts for the window/door openings of Braithwaite House.

You are engaging a local artist to paint shop scenes on unoccupied retail premises- we await further developments with regard to these projects with interest.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The flower beds at entrance to Lidl brighten up this area. Following advice received in last year's report you have installed attractive timber flower boxes on the Canal Bridge and these looked very well – well done to all concerned with this project particularly the local Men's Shed. There were very attractive floral displays at the Bridgewater Inn and The Lock 13 Gastro Pub premises which enhanced the streetscape here. You are working with the Men's Shed to install a boat as a feature in the village which will replace one of the three existing planting beds. The provision of border surrounds on the remaining planting beds will improve presentation and reduce maintenance requirements here.

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

Your 'Wild About Sallins' signs continue to create an awareness of local wildlife in your Community and it is good that you continue your Annual Wildlife Walks and have met with the Waters and Community representative to further promote angling and boating on the Canal. You have made a submission to Sallins Community Council regarding the development of 33 acres of land rezoned for amenity purposes and it is hoped your proposals regarding the development of social, sporting and recreational facilities in the area will can be carefully considered.

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

You plan to look at possibilities to recycle some items of waste not currently recyclable such as toothpaste and make-up containers in conjunction with Kildare County Council and a recycling company - it will be interesting to see how this project progresses and hopefully it will prove to be feasible. The use of wheelie bins to aid the watering of flower displays is a good sustainable initiative. Perhaps these can be filled using rainwater harvested from local roofs, which is a good water conservation measure. Rainwater harvesting and the use of water butts can also be promoted for the watering of private gardens in Sallins. Other initiatives to consider under this category includes the promotion of greener homes and insulation techniques, installation of solar panels on existing buildings (grants are available for this). Encouraging sustainable transport and cycling options e.g. the development of Greenways/Blueways along the Canal and provision of cycle parking facilities, provision of electric car charge points in the village etc. should also be pursued.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is great that you undertake Litter Patrols three times a week in Sallins and that the collected litter is segregated. This is very successful as there was generally an absence of litter in the village on the day of adjudication. The involvement of young people in the litter picking events also creates greater awareness of this issue locally. The village namesign situated on the roadside margin on the way into the village from Johnstown is damaged and needs to be repaired/replaced and a flower bed could be installed here. The discarded timber panels located on the roadside opposite St.Bridget's Terrace estate detract from the general area here. The advertising at the Des Kelly premises also needs to be examined as it is overly intrusive on the streetscape.

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

The support that Sallins Tidy Towns gives to local housing estates in providing advice, manpower and equipment is important in maintaining standards generally. Estates in Sallins were for the most part well presented and the residents are to be commended for all the work and effort put into this throughout the year. Osberstown Court and Sallins Wharf and Pier estates were worthy of praise and the entrance piers and ornamental gates were particularly admired here. At Sallins Bridge estate the presentation of the entrance was greatly admired including the Ogham stone feature and planting schemes. Sallins Park estate has an attractive planted bed around the estate namestone and an impressive avenue of trees along the estate entrance road. The broken stone capping along perimeter wall along the road would need to be repaired here. At Castlesize Green, Close, and Walk the open spaces in these estates were presented to a high standard. It is good to note that you have carried out a major project to assist Castlefen Estate with the maintenance of their communal areas and that one of the local children received an endeavour award for all the efforts undertaken here.

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

You are awaiting the completion of the Sallins By Pass road scheme to remove the heavy and incessant traffic from the main road. It is recognised that it is difficult to carry out any major improvements to enhance the appearance of Sallins along approach roads, whilst large numbers of trucks transporting soil and materials are passing through the village. The appearance of private sites can also detract from the environs of the village and the co-operation of the owners in enhancing these is essential but not always forthcoming. You advocated for a new footpath at St. Bridget's Terrace and this has now been constructed-well done.

Concluding Remarks:

Sallins has great potential to progress in the Competition. A greater number of volunteers would help ease the burden in relation to the completion of maintenance operations and new projects. You are wished well for the future.

