

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timolin** Ref: **387**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **289**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	29	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	279	289

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Timolin Tigh Mo Linne chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Timolin Tidy Towns is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition 2018, your 25th plus year entering the Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive application with book of photographs, paper clippings and sample newsletters which provides a wonderful summary of the range of activities and projects which you have been progressing over the last year or are planning for the future. The map of your village with it's numbered key enclosed with your application was very clear and easy to read and was very helpful to the Adjudicator in navigating around the village. You have 5 members on your Committee with 2 Volunteers and you arrange monthly meetings throughout the year liaising with the local Tractor Run Committee, Active Age, School, Scouts and Text Alert Groups. It is good to note that you have a close working relationship with Kildare County Council and the Athy Municipal District, as the support of the local authority is important in many of the projects you are hoping to progress. You seek to maximise community engagement in your work through the use of Newsletters, Public Meetings, Radio, emails and Texts. It is obvious that considerable success has been achieved by your Committee in making residents and visitors aware and appreciative of their environs. By enhancing the attractiveness of the village you are making great efforts to improve the Tourist potential of this part of Kildare. The flagship project for your village this year is the completion of the 'Gordon Bennett Memorial' feature on the R448 which is very innovative and a credit to your hard working Committee and Volunteers. Thank you for your 3 year Tidy Towns Plan 2017-2020 and 5 year Village Renewal Development Plan, submitted to Kildare County Council. This confirms your approach to planning improvements in your village which is very well considered and realistic.

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

Firstly, congratulations to all on the success you have achieved through the completion of the Gordon Bennett Memorial at the R448 junction. The association of Timolin village with the Gordon Bennett race which took place in 1903 is a very important aspect of our recent history and it is good that this initiative has now been brought to fruition. It will only help to put Timolin on the map in Kildare and improve greatly the potential for tourism in the area. This is a wonderful feature, well executed and is very prominent as one enters the village. The new information board and painted seat near the new Gordon Bennett feature, which provided information on the route of the 1903 motor race, were admired. The information made available on the local towns and villages was very interesting and you are to be commended for all the work carried out here. The new seat, noticeboard and flower containers at Bagnall's corner enhanced this area and made for a very inviting entrance to the village. The two - storey house adjacent to the Sportsman's Inn was very well presented with an attractive façade and newly painted railing to the front and wonderful floral displays in the garden - great credit is due to the owners of this property. St Mullin's Church and graveyard was visited and the standard of presentation and maintenance of the graveyard impressed

as did the wonderful stately coniferous trees which served to enhance the setting of the Church. Some repair works are required to the stonework at the Scratham Road pedestrian entrance to the Graveyard. Unfortunately, the Church was closed and it was not possible to view the two remarkable stain glass windows and the 13th Century effigy of a Norman Knight. Maybe next time. The old restored cottage on the approach to the village and Scouts Den were admired as was the Pewter Mill Complex which has been tastefully restored.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Oak Avenue with its coppiced hazel and wildflower understorey and closely mown margin located to the front along the road, makes for a very pleasant and well-presented approach to the village of Timolin. The idea to develop a linear historical park through the oak trees is worthy of consideration although the space here is rather limited. The clipped heather ground cover planting on the road margin opposite the Oak Avenue was also particularly admired because it is normally very difficult to establish this type of ground cover with such good coverage and providing complete weed control – this must be a spectacular and very colourful feature in the Springtime. The 7 Birch trees planted to Commemorate the World Meeting of Families 2018 were noted and were surviving well despite the severe drought conditions and the new plaque erected here was admired. You have also planted two more maple trees to complete your 'Maple Avenue' opposite the 'welcome walk' bed.

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

It is good to note that before any work is considered by the Committee, the impact on wildlife flora and fauna is of paramount importance. The high-quality nature and habitat signs dotted around the village, let people know why certain areas are important from a wildlife point of view and are managed the way they are. This also helps to improve the general profile of the Tidy Towns group in the village. It is noted that the wildlife area at the old school house which is an important habitat for frogs, is used carefully by the Montessori School and bat boxes and bird boxes have been installed here. The reuse of old tree stakes on the oak avenue to provide Bee B&B's is a novel idea.

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

Under this category, sustainable waste is to the fore in your thoughts and you have organised a talk on waste and recycling provided by Athy Municipal District and attended a seminar on Sustainability in Leixlip. It is good that you have planned your activities with water conservation in mind and have reduced the number of flower barrels in the village to minimise watering requirements. This has been particularly important this year with the lack of rain and severe drought conditions. Car-pooling is a good way to reduce carbon emissions and you appear to be already some way down the road with this idea ! The local Jack and Jill Shop provides an opportunity to exchange books, clothes, baby equipment etc. and all for a good cause. For next year under this category you could consider further initiatives such as developing a community garden, promoting the use of low carbon vehicles or providing an electric car charge point or perhaps cycle parking facilities or solar panels on buildings in the village. The greater use of water butts and rainfall storage tanks for the watering of private gardens, the school garden, and flower tubs in the village during the dry Summer period, might also be 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:

Timolin is a neat and tidy village and you have put great effort into maintaining the presentation of approach roads by undertaking clean ups and removing large quantities of rubbish, as evidenced in your enclosed photographic file. Road signage on the approaches to the village was found to be clean and well-presented and not obscured by vegetation. Local walkers carry out daily litter picks and there was an absence of litter in the village on the day of adjudication-well done.

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

The new estate namestone at St Moling's Way was admired. Perhaps a new flower bed could also be provided around the stone here. The estate was well presented although some repair work is needed on sections of the stone wall fronting the road. The Mill Brook estate presented attractive houses and open space. The capping on the stone wall along the open space is in need of some repair. Individual houses and gardens in Timolin are generally presented to a high standard.

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

Needless to say the entrance to Timolin has now been transformed with the introduction of your wonderful Gordon Bennett Memorial. You take great care of your approach roads including the maintenance of grass margins and hedgerows and take into account the needs of wildlife in the management regime employed. Footpaths in the village are regularly swept and were well presented. Road surfaces and markings through the village were generally good and it is noted that you are taking steps to improve the condition of Scratham Road and have plans to install a footpath loop at the Gordon Bennett feature.

Concluding Remarks:

Timolin is making great strides in the competition thanks to the foresight, planning, vision and hard work of the Tidy Towns Committee and volunteers. You are wished well in your future endeavours.

