

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inistioge** Ref: **394**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **332**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/08/2018**
27/07/2018

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	50	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	48	49
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	40	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39
TOTAL MARK	450	325	332

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Inistioge/Inis Tiog chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your application and very helpful colourful concise map. It was a pleasure to visit your picturesque village which was buzzing with activity on day of adjudication. The village's location with the river Nore one of its main attractions together with a wide mix of buildings lining the streetscape gives the village its splendour. The streetscape rises to a prime viewing location of the village and its surrounds makes it somewhat unique. Your committee are extra busy this year with two competitions to focus on. Well done on being nominated as a national representative in Entente Florale 2018, with which you are wished well. It is good to note that the number of volunteers have increased with all the extra work that has to be undertaken within a concise time frame. It is also positive that all members of the community are getting involved which includes new residents. Your engagement with the schools is also noted and commended. The different events that you participate in during the year such as the Christmas market and Heritage week provides a wide range of activities for members of the community to get involved in. You have a good working relationship with all agencies and businesses locally and communicate to the wider community by a number of channels.

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

The square which is the main hub of the village has a lovely mix of heritage buildings blending with a more modern build. The Churches are fine examples of well-maintained heritage buildings. The houses that border the square all add to the village uniqueness. The restoration of the small castle on the square will complement the streetscape further. The new lighting adds to the whole character of the village and complements the streetscape. The school is a focal point of the village and has become a much safer location with the new parking facilities. The footpath opposite the school could now be made more accessible with resurfacing. The GAA facility was busy on day of adjudication and this provides a fine recreational place for the community. The railings surrounding the pitch at river side could be freshened. Part of the village heritage are the old farm implements that are placed along the approach road from Thomastown. The Adjudicator this year feels that their significance is lost and that if grouped together and displayed throughout the green area it would enhance this area and also give more meaning for visitors of the importance of these implements in days gone by to the village.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

This is a category that the committee has taken advice on and the results can be noted throughout the village and its surrounds. The planting throughout was admired and the hanging baskets along the street lights add that extra colour to the streetscape of the village. The containers at the Church acting as flag stands were also admired. The Herb garden looked fresh with its new surrounds and is placed in a prominent position in the village. The community

garden is good for the community to learn about plants and have something to take home and enjoy also, well done. The good care of trees which is too often neglected by groups, once trees are planted is noted here. Green areas this year unfortunately are suffering somewhat from the extreme heat but this is a natural result of a warmer drier summer.

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

The location of the village with the natural surrounds of forestry, the river and the many stone walls that border the area provide habitats for nature. They are also prime recreational sites for the community, let it be having a picnic by the river bank, taking the loop walk or watching a game of hurling. You have embraced your natural resources and taken the necessary advice on how they can best be managed. Planting is managed, by using perennial pollinator friendly plants providing longer colour and interest and better habitats for wildlife. Taking time to peruse at St Colmille's Well is where well managed planting can be seen in abundance. The loop walk also provides many areas of interest in the natural surroundings. Your treatment of invasive species with the Local Authority is also noted and this takes time to totally eradicate the problem.

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

From your application it shows that you are working to reduce waste and conserve energy where possible. Groups this year have had to conserve water usage with the hot summer. Your new lighting system is the way forward and it is positive that you are working on getting the community centre programmed for better energy savings. Growing plants locally is also very efficient. Proof of this is in the planting around the village and the community garden. It not only reduces waste but provides local jobs. Other areas of saving were noted in flower containers and bird boxes made from recycled timber and they do look the part. Promoting awareness through the school and when local events are being held of your energy saving techniques is good, as the community have to be reminded at all times of the importance of reducing waste where possible. Well done on your work in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village and surrounding areas were generally tidy on day of adjudication. River Park was busy with many relaxing in the lovely sunshine. You certainly have a good plan in place for litter control, as with so many visitors it can be difficult to keep litter under control, but no litter was noted on day of adjudication. There was some untidiness at the premises at the corner of Mill Road. Too many flower containers can often give an untidy look to an area.

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

The square has a good mix of buildings, all well presented. The houses on the approach roads are bright and decorative. At Woodstock many houses were admired. Bright blue flowers on the walls of some were admired. Róisín had a lovely array of flowers and artefacts which brought great colour and interest to the area. The green areas and colourful gardens added great ambience to the streetscape. The residents are commended on the superb presentation of their homes.

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

The approach roads to the village gives a good first impression as one enters with their fine presentation of stone walls, trees and vegetation all neat but with a natural growth appearance. The Thomastown road has a splendid mix of green areas and trees, creating many areas of interest. The farm machinery that are all well preserved and brightly painted could be utilised better in a more prominent position. The footpath opposite the school could be improved with resurfacing. The trees along the GAA were admired and will add to the tree stock of the area.

Concluding Remarks:

Inistiogoe was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. The natural setting of the village will be enhanced by any future development under the Public Plan which will be eagerly looked forward to. Keep up the good work and you are wished continued success.

Second Round Adjudication:

I travelled out from New Ross to this lovely village and was greeted by the bilingual road signage and was immediately impressed with the outstanding traditional stone walls (so well maintained) and the lovely stone bridge over the river Nore. There are wonderful aesthetics at the picturesque Old Schoolhouse tea rooms looking across to the well kept River Park with suitable picnic tables surrounded by lovely flowers and shrubs. Great mature and young trees all give sylvan beauty around the park area. The many stone walls integrate well with the native Irish environment, and dry stone walls harbour large quantities of insects and wildlife, and Inistiogoe, by the river, is a haven for all types of wildlife. We admire your attention paid to this important category.

Travelling along we loved the shop fronts notably W Walsh and the flower bedecked O'Donnell plus P Hogan. The small castle will have a new lease of life, and now we see the traditional materials and styles of such buildings during the renovations. Elegant town houses are attractive around the square and on the approach roads. Nice houses with large shop-front windows were once shops and have their own particular charm, with some having great sash windows. The two churches are landmark buildings in this part of County Kilkenny and are presented in great condition. We loved the green at the square with the well cared for mature trees and enjoyed the paths cutting

through the green. The old fashioned bollards are great historical objects. Your millennium garden is pretty with the outstanding traditional stone wall surround showing it off for all to admire.

One's eye is drawn to the outstanding boundary wall of the housing estate on the Thomastown Road; this wall is built to the highest standards and displays outstanding workmanship. The estate is well kept but it should have a nameplate on it; the map points out that it is Black Church Square. The school is very well presented with the traditional water pump at the front. Across the road we admire the facilities of the GAA pitch that is a very good facility for the youth of this area. Your first round adjudicator questions the positioning of the antique farm machinery and I agree that it should be relocated to a place where it can be admired more easily. It is only seen by a glance on the side of the road and this could actually distract drivers.

The raised platform shows off the traditional water pump and we loved the old trough filled with attractive flowers. The hanging baskets of flowers around the town are really colourful, and the ones in the private houses is an endorsement of the extent to which the entire community has gotten behind the Tidy Towns effort. We read that some work in the community garden is done by learners and experienced gardeners. Having also read of the work ongoing on the Grove site near Woodstock we later admired that lovely part of Inistioge. The first round adjudicator has given you a comprehensive report and increased marks and it is my pleasure to confirm this result. A visit to this village is a positive delight in terms of experiencing the Irish countryside at its best, and the provision of explanatory signage adds greatly to one's enjoyment and pleasure.

Congratulations on being nominated as one of Ireland's two entrants to the Entente Florale competition, and we feel confident that you will do very well in this international competition.