

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Attanagh** Ref: **303**
County: **Laois** Mark: **269**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	30	31
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	36	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	450	264	269

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Attanagh (Ath Tanal) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais.

Well done to all of those who have been involved on your Tidy Towns committee this year. The addition of two returning residents willing to take an active part in their community can only ensure that your committee goes from strength to strength. We look forward to your new engagement with social media. This assists in the effective running of Tidy Towns groups on so many levels, from an environmental point of view and from a community engagement point of view.

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

The Attanagh Fly Fishing and Shooting Museum is beautiful. The building, the white wash, the sash windows and the signage greatly add to character of your village. All of that before a visit!

The map of Heritage site to be erected in the centre of the village was not yet in-situ by day of adjudication. It will make a nice addition. Yours is such a small village, yet you have three protected structures; Saint Brigid's Church of Ireland Church, Grenan Schoolhouse, and Glebe House/Rectory. It is important to note that when a structure is protected it does not mean that the structure must be preserved exactly as it is. Rather, it allows for managed change through the planning process, with the objective of retaining the qualities of the structure which give it its special interest. This has been demonstrated in the use of the former school house as a new family home.

Restoration of the gates to the Church of Ireland would greatly enhance the impression here. Is it possible to ask the owner's permission to embark on their restoration?

The well-preserved dry stone walls are an important feature of your built heritage and are in general well preserved and maintained. This was particularly evident at the Mill area.

You mention that the horseshoe shaped wall at the village pump needs to be brightened up and that you plan on doing this using the traditional rural white washing technique. It is always admirable when groups operate using traditional methods to maintain their heritage. However it was not as yet completed by day of adjudication. We look forward to seeing it for next year's submission.

The post office remains a central building in your village and looks well.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The green area on the right from the approach road from Durrow has the bright "Attanagh" sign, which is maintained in good condition. There is a good base of shrubbery. We would suggest that it be supplemented with some brighter planting. We recommend more of the pollinator friendly varieties.

Your old stone walls are part of the unique heritage in Ireland. They leave a lasting impression on those who view

them. Your work to preserve them, as part of your built heritage and also as an important wildlife habitat, is to be commended. Do you seek advice on this?
Would you consider putting in a seating area near the Post Office? Public seating offers people the opportunity to come together and engage with each other.
Summer adjudication means we do not have the benefit of viewing the snowdrops in the graveyard of the Church of Ireland. Please enclose a photo of these with your next submission. They show the value of bulb planting. You highlight that these have been a feature in this area for upwards of one hundred and fifty years.
Similarly, we do not get to enjoy the view of daffodils in Attanagh during adjudication, also because of the time of year of adjudication. Please don't hesitate to include a photo of your extensive daffodil flowers in future submissions

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

With the addition of your new members you seem to be starting to deliver on your Biodiversity plan, with the preparation of your Wildlife garden. This is an important area to engage in, considering the trends of decline in our pollinators. Don't forget simple steps of individuals planting more pollinator friendly plants in their individual gardens. Well done on your work in assisting the Bat Conservation of Ireland. Equally, well done on submitting butterfly records to the National Biodiversity Centre. Both are very worthy tasks.
The knowledge of much of the biodiversity in your area can be found by talking to Walter, who owns and runs the Irish Fly Fishing & Game Shooting Museum. The museum has an extensive collection of artefacts on display which illustrate fishing, shooting and other countryside activities. For a village of this size to boast such a collection is impressive.
Your recognition that Japanese knotweed at the old mill site is a problem and highlighting it to the County Council should ensure that it doesn't get out of hand.

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

The Bring Bank bins are in good order except for the inconsistent – green bin at the end which has a few patches of rust. It is unfortunate that these are hiding the beautiful stone wall behind. This service appears well used by local residents. We would welcome any statistics that you could provide in next year's submission on the amount of waste that this saves [from going to landfill?]. Note that the emphasis is now on the reduction of waste in the first place. Avoidance is the foremost concern, followed by recycling and re-use. You can get more up to date information from the Environmental Officer of your County Council. You can also find extra help on this category of the competition on <http://www.epa.ie/begreen/> and on the Tidy Towns website.
In order to achieve more marks in this category, details of the results of efforts carried out should be included. For example, what was the approximate reduction in water usage?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

As with most rural villages, you highlight fly-tipping as being an issue. Your village was looking very clean on the day of adjudication. Well done to all who help achieve this.
We understand how it can be difficult for some parents not wanting their children picking up litter on roads with no paths. Maybe there are other areas that the children can get involved in? Weeding at the Post Office, for example. They might be able to assist in some sustainability project if they are part of the work for a Green Flag in their school. It is important to try and encourage younger members to feel responsible for helping to maintain and improve their own area.
There was no extra litter around the recycling area, which can be a problem in some areas. There were no posters spotted.

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

The increase of two new houses to your area must be great boost to your village, especially when you consider that those two new residences are as a result of an older house being completely renovated. You have created an attractive area to live in and this is the proof.
These two new residences are occupied by two younger men who grew up in your village, left, and then returned. Are they now playing an active part in maintaining your village?
The bright yellow windows on the residence near the old mill are very eye-catching.

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

The entrance sign from the Durrow road was bright and clean. The planting around it may need to be cut back, which would have the added benefit of uncovering the lovely stone base.
The signpost at the corner "Please drive slowly through our village" was damaged.
The speed sign near the bridge was partially covered by a nearby tree.
The "green footpaths" were extremely well maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

From your submission you appear to have a good number of projects in the pipeline. The future looks bright for Attanagh Tidy Towns. Best wishes in your new endeavours.

