

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edgeworthstown** Ref: **714**
County: **Longford** Mark: **282**
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	50	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	32
TOTAL MARK	450	270	282

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo faille roimh Meathas Troim chuig na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliuradh 60 Bliain an Chomortais. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Edgeworthstown this year, thank you for your well thought entry with accompanying Three Year Tidy Towns Plan and Biodiversity Audit and Management Plan; both will guide and inform future projects. Your map was helpful. We applaud your use of Facebook to circulate Tidy Towns information to a wider audience than would otherwise be the case with the more traditional methods. The Edgeworthstown Tidy Towns committee appears to have a fruitful working relationship with a wide range of stakeholders in the future of the town; liaison with the schools is particularly noteworthy. Thank you for your continued participation over the past nine years, we anticipate many more; it is a pleasure to know of the benefits participation has brought to the community.

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

Both the Mostrim Arms Hotel and Post Office premises look well to their roadside façade and enhance their streetscape however, the upper storeys of the hotel could be painted and a timber fascia sign would look better here. Shopfronts are reasonably well presented and there is not too much inappropriate signage however the signage on the Jack's Corner Public House premises needs refurbishment. The First Station and C&D Foods enjoy good maintenance and presentation; some commercial premises on this road could be improved to achieve a similar high standard. The junction of Main Street and Granard Street enhances the overall appearance of the streetscape significantly with its new railings, public seating and large planters all of which enjoy good maintenance. we look forward to the completion of the new Library for next year's adjudication. Your Heritage / Literary Trail and guided tours are exemplary.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The southern entrance to Edgeworthstown from the M4 featuring beautiful flower displays at the nameplates and sculpture beyond was admired for its artistry, design and maintenance and overall presentation. The bypass Road and roundabouts are attractively landscaped too. The strategic choice and placement of large free-standing tree containers is excellent and it is good to note these are under-planted with heathers for seasonal interest and colour. Smaller container planting is colourful and complements the streetscape also. Landscaping at the corner of the Old Longford Road catches the eye with its beauty. The large green area marking the entrance to Auburn Park residential could feature some landscaping and planting for visual enclosure to the roadside is suggested at the utility station. Plant native species where possible and remember to plant for seasonal interest and colour and don't forget the pollinators!

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

Congratulations on your Biodiversity Audit and Management Plan for Edgeworthstown, this will inform future actions under this heading. The list of projects under this heading is impressive ranging from bug-hotels to bat talks and walks to pollination projects and monitoring swift nesting and much more. The Old Longford Road has the makings of a good nature trail and is relatively safe with little traffic; if chosen the trail should be organised as a 'Children's Challenge' with species identified at the beginning on an information board and a 'challenge' to see how many species can be spotted along the trail; this has been very successful in some centres. The new wildlife habitat stone marker is charming. The sports facility coming in from Goldsmiths roundabout was admired; cemeteries enjoy good maintenance too.

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

The recycling point is managed nicely and is well located behind Kanes Supermarket as well as the Laundrette. It is good to note steps taken by business interests in Edgeworthstown to play their part in being a sustainability aware community; Duffy's SuperValu, Irish Rail and town centre business have made an important contribution to waste management / prevention at source. Appropriate goals suggested under this heading are water harvesting and composting for self-sufficiency in both for your landscaped areas; a related goal is sustainable planting, the committee is already on the road to achieving this goal with its lift, dividing and reuse of plants each year in addition to the lifting and storing of bulbs. Well done to Saint Mary's National School and Fresh Today for their fresh water from dispensers instead of plastic bottles.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control appears strong in Edgeworthstown with no visible litter on adjudication days. Weed control was good too with just a few outbreaks at kerbs in Cloverwell estate and along the kerb on Bracklin road. It is heartening to hear of the reduction of litter collected this year for the National Spring Clean which attributable to the ETT daily and weekly litter picks. The emphasis on the Literary Trail between St Mary's Church and St John's Church is very worthwhile. Overhead service cables along the main thoroughfare is very noticeable and the use of old timber service poles for streetlighting diminishes visual amenity, no doubt this has been raised with the county engineer. The restoration and painting to hoarding at a vacant site on Pound Street is excellent.

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

Town houses within the main thoroughfare are attractively presented and enhance the townscape significantly. Residential estates are being nicely managed also with just a few details in need of attention; retaining walls marking the entrance to Wolf Tone Court, Auburn Park, and Cloverwell estate could be repainted. Auburn Park looks well in most other respects. Well done to ETT for their maintenance of approximately 20 acres of grassland between Edgeworthstown's nine housing estates, this is an impressive achievement! Congratulations on the 'Taking in Charge' by Longford County Council of the unfinished estates.

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

The road surface along Edgeworthstown's Main Street is not very good and needs to be relined however allowances have been made for recent works by Irish Water and Longford County Council's commitment to refurbishment. On-street car parking appears to be quite orderly and well organised. Some street furniture needs attention especially street bollards. Grassed roadside verges on the southern entrance looked as if it had been roughly cut roughly cut but looked reasonably well at the same time; those along the northern entrance on the N4 allowed to grow long and looked a bit better. We wish you success in developing 'The Walks' s a walkway / cycleway that will allow children to walk / cycle to school safely; this would be a tremendous achievement! The associated 'maths' for energy and other savings and benefits are impressive. The new footpath on the Bracklin Road is favourably noted.

Concluding Remarks:

Edgeworthstown is a handsome centre with good quality streetscapes and heritage to engage the local and wider community. The Tidy Towns committee are well informed and proactive.