

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dunlavin** Ref: **517**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **264**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/08/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	31	32
Streetscape & Public Places	50	35	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	39	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	20	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>264</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Dunlavin (Dún Luáin) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your map, your application form and accompanying material. You have a reasonable number of people involved in your committee and volunteering for your population category which is good to see such interest in your work. It is a difficult job but always worth trying to get more people involved if even only for an hour. Try to use your communication channels to do this. Word of mouth can sometimes be the best. A good range of public, business and private organisations help you with your activities. Your Facebook page is kept up to date and your +1400 likes is impressive. Jonathan Swift School Green Flag school sign was on proud display. As a suggestion, in your application form please start each category with your new projects (N), then the maintained projects (M) and finally the future projects (FP). Number all the projects sequentially (don't restart numbering in each category). Then use the number of each new project in the application form on the map and map legend as appropriate. Some projects won't be marked on the map. You could also highlight what category each project is in. This makes it very clear what projects are new, where to find them on the ground and the information in your application form and makes it less likely that your adjudicator will miss anything. You can indicate landmarks on the map with letters or another symbol other than numbers. Feel free to expand the entry form with additional pages if you wish.

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

I was very impressed with the layout and buildings within your large village. You have many fine heritage buildings and your wide streets are a notable feature. Your crowning glory is the Courthouse. It is encouraging to see that many derelict buildings have been sold and hopefully they will be brought back to live soon. The preservation of the granite kerbs is most welcoming to see. The resurfacing of Main Street improves the overall look of the street. Your street name signs were note positively. The stone steps and stone wall at the graveyard on the N81 were admired. M. Caplis Bar and Lounge signage was well presented on adjudication day. Some weeds were on the kerbs in Steven Street. Try to keep the centre of the village weed free. Try to encourage property owners when they are replacing window to use timber as they add a lot of character to historic buildings and will last longer and easier to repair than PVC, once they are maintained.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done on the new holly hedge and tree planting at the playground. I am sure the seat and planting at the old pack horse bridge is welcomed by the visitors to the nursing home. The newly planted cherry tree to mark the 200th anniversary of the national school will provide a great splash of colour in spring for many years. The tree commemorating the Pope visit in 1979 will be a fine addition to the streetscape in future years. There are multiple

opportunities to plant similar large growing trees in your community for future generations to enjoy, much like the mature specimens now. In your tree planting make sure to keep a minimum of 1m radius around all trees free from weeds and grass. This will help the tree to grow strong and vigorous and also stop lawnmower decks and strimmers rubbing up against the trees. In your planting please consult with recommended pollinator plants at <http://pollinators.ie/>. Try to use at least 70% of pollinator friendly plants in schemes. Implementing this policy will also be looked on favourably by future adjudicators in this category as well as the landscaping and sustainability categories.

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

Hopefully the Railway walk will soon receive planning permission and funding so work can start. It is encouraging to see that you use bee friendly plants and that pesticides are not used. It is recommended that Tidy Town groups do a habitat map of what they have and look at best practice management for the different habitats. The Heritage Council has a Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages guide which outlines habitats generally found and management of the same. You could do a simple map marking in the different habitats listed in the guide and then use this for your own use and for inclusion in this competition. Some areas could maybe allow go a little more "wild" to increase biodiversity. A great source for wildlife gardening is <http://www.wlgf.org/> or No Nettles Required, The Truth About Wildlife Gardening by Ken Thompson.

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

You don't have many projects listed in this category. A great source of inspiration for projects in this category is <https://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. What some groups also find beneficial is to break down this category into waste, water, energy and transport categories and to cover all 4 sub categories each year with new and continuing projects. This category is about changing people's behaviour and attitudes, which can take a long time. Recycling levels were very low in the 1990s' but now we have the second highest rate of packaging recycling in Europe. Keep an eye on the value of small interventions that many people can do to make a change (eg. Stop Food Waste Challenge). Also keep track of the accumulative savings made over the years and keep your adjudicator informed. Consider putting Greener Cleaning (<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/>) and Luscious Leftovers ([www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)) ideas up in your local community hall. This category is about changing people's behaviour and attitudes, which can take a long time. Recycling levels were very low in the 1990s' but now we have the second highest rate of packaging recycling in Europe. Consider putting Greener Cleaning/Gardening (<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/>) and Luscious Leftovers ([www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)) links and ideas up on your Facebook page at regular intervals.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

There was little litter noted on adjudication day. Some dog fouling was noticed. Keep up the work with your anti dog fouling campaign. Well done in taking part in the Spring Clean. You don't mention if you take part in the Pure Mile project. If you do take part, please mention it in next years application. Other groups have organised an "Adopt a Spot" campaign where individuals pledge to clean up a short section, say their boundary properties and a bit more. Similar initiatives and have found that this motivate others to contribute as they feel that they are not the only ones and that each bit will add up to a big area that is maintained. Maybe run a campaign to see if you can get others to make a pledge to Adopt a Spot, this might work well in the centre of the village to tackle weed growth also?

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

Friar Hill was visited on adjudication day and was well presented. There were some tree stakes that need to be removed as they are no longer holding up the tree. Well done on your requests to residents to clean and paint their properties and it is wonderful to hear of their involvement in your work. Other communities run estate competitions based around the Tidy Town competition with awards for best landscaping, best pollinator planting, best wildlife project, best estate, most improved, best sustainable project etc. The competition helps to motivate individuals to act.

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

Heading out the Church road the water treatment plant would benefit from native hedgerow screening to hide the post and wire fence and maybe some larger growing trees behind e.g. oak, beech, lime. The tree planting on Station Road and Friar hill was admired. The choice of tree helps to reinforce the atmosphere created by the longer growing trees. Many of the road surfaces need attention. The boundary treatment on the left hand side of the lane way to the Holy Well would benefit from softening with suitable planting on the security fencing which detracts greatly from the otherwise pleasant walk. Maybe contact the owners in relation to the same.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

I was very impressed by the architectural quality of your streetscape and enjoyed my visit to your beautiful village. Try to consider locations for large growing trees to help continue the rich natural heritage that previous generations planted.