

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinahely** Ref: **245**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **284**
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/08/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	44
Streetscape & Public Places	50	36	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	34
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	274	284

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Tinahealy (Tigh na hÉille) 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. 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. You have a good range of public, business and private organisations that help you with your activities. Well done on your efforts to involve school children in your efforts. 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.

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

You have a wonderful collection of many fine buildings. Many buildings catch the eye individually and as groups. Murphy's Hotel had splendid signage and presentation. The resurfacing of the main street really added to the scene. The replaced paving looked well and the before and after pictures speak volumes. Great to see a paving workshop for the local CE scheme was incorporated. The old granite kerbs around the library were noted positively. Wonderful to see their retention. Some of your street name signs could do with upgrading e.g. Millcourt, Barton Street. Many buildings were well presented on adjudication day O'Connors, Bank of Ireland, Madelin's, Maggie Pub, Murphy's, Combi Cafe, M.Symes + Co. The front boundaries of the industrial area at Lugduff would really benefit from a continuation of the beech hedge with some free standing trees. The Railway Walk signage could do with upgrading and or replacement of the poster holder. In any new works on buildings try to encourage higher quality shopfront signage than plastic banner or poster panel with little or no detail. The style does not need to be traditional. Wicklow and South Dublin County Councils have shopfront design guides which give examples of both traditional and modern designs, which may be of use to you in helping shopfronts be upgraded, especially on Market Square and the immediate surrounding streets.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting display coming from Hacketstown looked very well while passing from the car. Some planting could do with pruning back as it was blocking the road sign. On closer inspection on foot it was a little weedy. Your planting

in Market square maybe could do with some additional species to add seasonal colour e.g. heather, rudbeckia, catmint. Well done on the upgrade while doing the paving. 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:

Well done on the organised events to raise awareness of the local environment and biodiversity. These will help to change perceptions and help to get people to place more value on their environment into the future, especially where children are involved. 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.

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

You are developing a range of events to help to promote sustainability in your locality. Your Free Book Scheme, Walk on Wednesdays and striving towards paperless administration are to be commended. A great source of inspiration 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. 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. Maybe consider putting Greener Cleaning (<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/>) and Luscious Leftovers (www.stopfoodwaste.ie) links, tips and ideas up on your Facebook page at regular intervals.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Glad to be able to report very little litter was noticed on adjudication day. You appear to have a good range of ways of tackling any tidiness issues and remain on top of any problems. Some other centers have organised "Adopt A Spot" initiatives and have found that they 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 encourage more to make a pledge to Adopt a Spot.

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

The Tynles was visited on adjudication day and was well presented. The trees could do with 1m weed and grass free around the base so as to stop rubbing damage from lawnmowers/strimmers. Some trees in The Hollows had suckers that are in the need of removing. Some long grass for biodiversity cloud also be considered along the open space hedgerow. 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

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

The Ballinglen road (L3205) road surface was poor. There were remarkable views from the church further out this approach. St Kevin's Park wall and signage could do with attention as it is a prominent edge on this approach. There is poor edge detail between the path and bank on Kellys Hill. As a suggestion ideally the stone wall would be continued up the hill and planted behind but if this is not feasible, small whip planting of hawthorn (and ivy) should work in this difficult situation to help screen the ugly bank. Plant hawthorn 2m back from path edge to allow for future growth and 2 to 5m apart. Best to prune the hawthorn back to approximately 5cm above ground when planted and apply some slow release fertilizer to give it the best chance of survival. If possible also create a slight depression/well around the base of the plant to reduce the frequency of watering. On the Aughrim approach road the signage for Baltinglass, Ballinglen beside the seating area could do with upgrading. Maybe clearing a view of the weir (could not see it only hear what sounded like a weir) might be worth considering and turning the seats towards the view? The dead hawthorn could be delimbed and made safe and used to raise awareness of the value of dead wood for biodiversity.

Concluding Remarks:

You have the raw ingredients in your built environment and landscape to do very well in the competition.