

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Asdee - Eas Daoi** Ref: **322**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	40
Streetscape & Public Places	60	33	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	33	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	470	255	259

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Asdee Eas Daoi páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

Your committee is fortunate to have ten active members and another four volunteers. You hold many meetings during wintertime and weekly during the summer months. That is a strong commitment to the community and reinforces the strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from Kerry County Council and local businesses. Newspaper and the Parish Newsletter and social media are your means of communication. The involvement with local schools is commendable and we note the current project on biodiversity. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and some photographs of your work. We encourage communities to aim for a 3-year plan because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. We are pleased to note the positive benefits of your participation in the Tidy Towns competition in this your fifth year and the link that you provide for collaboration with many other groups.

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

Jack J's Public House was well-painted but there is a need for some landscaping treatment of trees and shrubs. The small flowerpots placed on the (newly painted) white fence and the linear flower bed in front of the car park are not in scale with the surroundings. Recycling banks on the front boundary are too conspicuous and would be better located in a less prominent part of the village. The National School is well painted, and we could see plenty of childrens art works displayed in the classroom windows. The church is looking well with a combination of dashed rendering and painted corners and the front wall site boundary is well painted. The small flowerpots sitting on the ground at the front of the church make little impact. This site needs trees to be in scale with the building. Nearby, we noted a cottage with a slated roof and a stone wall façade and wondered how the concrete streaks happened. Many buildings in the village are in good condition and well-maintained. Some properties have attractive balustrades as front boundaries and across the road we noted raised plant containers made with stone. Their purpose appears to prevent vehicles driving onto private landings. The grotto is looking well, and we noted it was built for Marian Year 1954.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and we suggest you focus on planting trees rather than flower beds. One objective for example would be to establish a line of trees on both sides of the village street. It is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. Also, it is important to ensure that the base of new trees is maintained free of weeds, grass and flower beds to ensure early establishment.

Guideline for plant containers is to use them only where planting directly into the ground is not possible; they should not in themselves attract any notice. It is better to have fewer well planted containers than a large number in which the quality of plants is inferior. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container at all. We note your intention to use permanent planting including herbaceous perennials for floral displays is encouraged rather than relying on annuals which are more time consuming.

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

You have a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. Items listed in your application include erection of bird and bat nesting boxes and feeding tables and removal of Himalayan Balsam from the river. The national school participates in the Green School's programme and you are using best practice guidelines from NPWS for flora and Fauna and you have plans to grow more pollinator friendly plants.

Researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information.

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

Under this heading you have mentioned growing your own flowers using recycled trays and using rainwater to water plants and flowers. You have reduced the number of recycling bins in the village by half which is an indicator of less waste being generated. You are recycling books using a special structure in the Community Centre. Well done to Asdee National School for achieving their 5th Green Flag for biodiversity.

These actions are most appropriate. Other measures that you can take are.....

- One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition.
- Other waste minimisation projects include reminding people to re-use shopping bags, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work.
- In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative.

These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. What are homes and businesses doing to tackle these?

For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have a weekly clean-up, participate in the County clean up and had a cooperative clean up with Asdee Development Association. You also removed rubbish during National Tree Week. A derelict house was decluttered for health and safety reasons and moss problem on tarmacadam will be resolved when new paths are reconstructed. Other activities included weeding the verge on Ballyunion Road, cleaning signs, weeding and cleaning the grotto. A STOP sign needs cleaning.

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

Activities undertaken by your team include weeding a bed at church cutting grass verges and painting low walls and fence. Residents are encouraged to paint and maintain their houses. We could see that many residents have pride in the homes and gardens and take care of them.

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

We liked the approach from Ballylongford. The bilingual sign sitting on a loose stone bed with flowers was clean and tidy. The grass margin before and after the sign was cut to ensure its visibility. Vegetation after that was allowed to grow, which is correct. The 50 kph sign looks faded so perhaps you could ask Kerry County Council to replace them. The projects undertaken by you for this year include maintenance of beds around signs on approach roads, painting of wall at handball alley and replanting flowers and a picnic area at Lacey's Cross developed.

Concluding Remarks:

This was our first visit to your village, and we wish to compliment you for the care and attention you give to your local community. Keep up the good work and we hope that this report provides some guidance for your programme next year.

