Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Beaufort - Lios an Phúca**	Ref:	**2039**
County:	**Kerry**	Mark:	**314**
Category:	**B**	Date(s):	**24/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43	43
Streetscape & Public Places	60	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	36	37
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	62	63
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	37
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	**470**	**308**	**314**

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Beaufort Lios an Phúca páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

With eight committee members and another 26 volunteers who support you, Beaufort is well served by their Tidy Towns Committee in this your 8th year of participation.   We note that your sub-committee meetings are very focussed on each criterion of the competition and these sometimes include meetings with Kerry County Council officials. You have detailed the exact support received from local businesses and public bodies. Well done. The use of Facebook and websites for you and the Beaufort Beekeepers Association shows an active level of communication. The involvement with local schools is commendable and we note they help with your litter pick twice yearly and have many other events as well. Having a local youth club is another important resource; they will be the future Tidy Towns Committee. Many thanks for attaching a colourful map of the area; we found this very helpful and suggest that you add more landmarks such as road names/numbers to help us describe locations when we write our report. The brief 3-year plan represents a good few thoughts for future projects. Please reformat this into a table and indicate which year the various projects are planned for implementation/completion.

Finally, please aim to reduce the size of your application. Twelve pages for the first criterion is too much material. Some suggestions to achieve this are to make better use of bullet points in paragraphs, reduce the size of some pictures and print on two sides of the page. It is then much easier to read on site. Another tip, please start every criterion at the top of a page and save time for the adjudicator turning pages to find it at the very bottom of a page and the content on the next page with no heading.

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

Beaufort Bar and the building almost opposite at the junction with Deelish Park are two fine stone buildings that define this area and indeed encourage visitors to stop awhile. We noted the memorial stone near here commemorating an address given by Charles Stewart Parnell. The church looks very well against a background of trees. It is reached via a minor road which widens into a large car park. Not too far away is Cullina National School; it is a lovely complex. The building is well-painted, and we were pleased to see some many trees in the grounds (mature and recently established) that greatly enhance its appearance. We admired the Ogham stones but noticed that some weeds at their base are taking advantage of the summer holidays. Well done to teachers and pupils for achieving green flag status. The flags were on display. The Grotto is an important feature in Beaufort; it is well-maintained. The spruce trees behind it seem to be struggling. Perhaps it is time for them to be replaced. Well done to the GAA; their sports complex is enclosed with a low stone wall, and there are several evergreen trees within the well-maintained grounds. The commercial centre of Beaufort is in Deelish Park and it includes Galvin's Bar which is painted pinkish red with grey reveals and corner stones. Most of the small plant containers at the front

and side of the building had no plants in them and would be better removed. The Daybreak and Post Office building looked well as did the In-Between Bar with its stone façade across the road. The many stone arched Beaufort Bridge over the River Laune is a lovely feature and well done for the enhancement with hanging baskets.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Beaufort is fortunate to be surrounded by green spaces, mostly private and many mature trees. These are the main structural elements in the landscape, and we are pleased to see a range of species throughout.   However, we advise that it is best to use a single species on a road or street for uniformity. When trees are established it is important to remove the stakes as the stems can get damaged from the ties or stake and so we advise that you check all young trees to determine if the stakes are needed. You have a range of plants and planting throughout the village and you are including pollinator friendly plants and are working with the Beekeepers Association. Well done. The green space beside the river at Beaufort Bridge is a welcoming place with seats and the fish sculpture.

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. The hanging baskets on Beaufort Bridge fit perfectly into that description; they are well-presented. 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 and that is why we suggest that the containers outside Galvins be removed. If considering more seasonal flowers the use of 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 we note from your application that you are very aware of its importance and have realigned your actions towards environmental improvement. Planting more bee friendly plants at the welcome signs is a good idea and aiming for a low maintenance show of perennials is the way to go. We are pleased to learn that you are reconsidering planting under the two smaller signs because of overhead shade from trees which blocks light and rain and note also that tree roots will take nutrients as well, so the competition doesn't work in such circumstances. Flower borders are best planted in full light conditions. Adapting the maintenance of road verges to blend in with the native vegetation is also correct, especially for your rural environment. Well done to the schools for achieving green flag status and particularly to Cullina for their 8th green flag.

Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. 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:

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society.
Much of your project information concerns sustainable food production, using pollinator friendly plants and supporting beehives, solar powered lights on traffic signs, clothes recycling and relevant school activities.

Other measures to consider 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.
•   Self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering.
•   Working with retailers to cut down on packaging and 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.
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:

Your actions under this heading include a litter management programme including regular clean-ups and you encourage walkers to assist by picking up litter during their walks. Segregation of collected litter is done and you have recycling banks in several places throughout the village. It is great that the Junior Tidy Towns Committee assist your work. The "Klean a Kilometre" is a catchy name for a project. We hope it works well for you. Beaufort was very clean during our visit so congratulations on a job well done.

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

Individual houses in the village are well-maintained, in particular, An Sean Uachtara caught our attention. The curved entrance to the Orchard estate opens up to attractive houses with a combination of plastered render and stonework. We were pleased to see many hedges in the front gardens which help to soften the impact of cars. What we missed were trees, especially since there is enough space for trees on the open space. Deelish Park is an older estate of detached houses with large gardens. Some have done a great job in planting hedges in the gardens and others still have a timber post and rail fence. It is surprising that the footpaths are so narrow in this estate, with no room for street trees, but there is great scope for residents to enhance the estate by planting trees in their gardens.

In Beaufort Park, there is a need to regularise the types of trees planted in the roadside margins. There is too much variety and many specimens are too small and broad – they should be planted on the open space. Just one species of tree such as birch should be planted on the roadside margins. There is an issue with the tree stakes, many of which are no longer needed and should be removed before they damage the tree stems. The Yield sign at the entrance is leaning and name stone needs to be repainted. The houses here look very well and many have established hedges in their gardens. Coolmagore Avenue estate is quite different from other estates in the village. It is open plan (no garden boundaries) and many of the bungalow style houses and gardens are below road level. There are some trees within this estate, but some have been badly pruned.

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

The bilingual heritage signs of Beaufort on the approach roads are a very high standard and the associated landscaping is attractive and appropriate. Random rubble stone walls add great character to the village. There are so many finger post signs (of different colours) at the junction with Deelish Park and it is impossible to read all of them; some needed cleaning. This is adding clutter to the village and we suggest that directional signs for places such as Killarney and Killorglin should be on a separate pole to ensure that visitors can see them.

Concluding Remarks:

Because your village is spread out so much it is difficult for you to manage such a large area. You are doing a good job and we hope this report provides some guidance for future improvement schemes.