

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Caherdaniel - Cathair Dónall	Ref: 1451
County: Kerry	Mark: 253
Category: A	Date(s): 18/06/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	37
Streetscape & Public Places	60	33	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	32	32
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	22
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	251	253

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Caherdaniel Cathair Dónall páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Your application form is very neatly completed and is easy to read. It is good that between the committee and volunteers you have approximately ten people in your team. Well done and for continuing in this your 5th year of participation. Instead of meetings you focus on projects such as clean-ups with residents. The South Kerry Partnership has assisted you in developing a plan which will guide you for the next three years. May we suggest that you include a summary of the plan with next year's entry. The use of Facebook and the Parish Newsletter are your means of communication. The involvement with the local school is commendable and an important source of future committee members and volunteers. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention. We agree with the comments of last year's adjudicator - the excellent little map which could not have been better! We are pleased to read about the positive reaction to your participation in the competition.

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

The Blind Piper, which is in operation, was painted very well, but so also was Freddie's Pub which we note was done by volunteers with paint provided by Dulux. Well done. The school is somewhat hidden being at a lower level from the N70. We liked the Alder trees growing inside the boundary wall and compliment teachers and pupils on achieving Green Flag status. It is good that your street lighting is compliant for the Dark Sky Reserve. The church is painted white with blue reveals and is sitting on raised ground opposite the Blind Piper. The car park has a good surface with parking spaces marked and it also serves for the Community Hall and access for the playground. We liked the mature trees which surround this little complex; they add great character. On the Gardoyle Road, the Junk Shop is true to its name.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Opposite the school we admired the very large population of stonecrop (Sedum annuum) growing in abundance. What a wonderful opportunity for school children to learn and experience wildflowers. You made the correct decision to allow these plants to remain. You are fortunate to have so many mature trees in and around Caherdaniel; they are the main structural elements in the landscape. We admired the window box displays on the Blind Piper. The mixed border planting on the village side of the school looks untidy; the foxgloves were looking splendid. We liked the planted bank on the Sneem side of the village.

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 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. In this regard 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. A project for schools is to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information. We liked the "Walk of the Planets" done in your own style. With the sun represented by the yellow spherical frame at the entrance. This is very educational and a great way of getting people to exercise outdoors as well. The sign needed cleaning.

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

During the past winter you organised two workshops on the use/reuse of fishing nets, something which is most appropriate for your community. Some local supermarkets now provide space for customers to leave their plastic behind and the hope is that this will in time lead to less use of plastics which as you mentioned is a problem for sea life. 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. Your village can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated.

The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). 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?

There are several other measures for you to consider regarding sustainability.

- 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:

Actions under this heading include the annual County clean-up in April and the Thursday night clean-up which is well-supported by the community. The several large blue recycling containers before the Junk Shop were quite untidy. Assuming that these are for local use, we suggest that they be tidied up and screened to reduce their visual appearance. People will be able to find them, once they know where they are. The bilingual village name sign on the Gardoyle Road was dirty and kerbside weeds were a problem here and there. There are many finger post signs, and they need attention. There was also a large sign with an auctioneer's name advertised. It is faded and needs painting. The clothes recycling bank at the school needs repainting.

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

The attractive An Gleantáin Holiday Homes with their dormer windows occupy a prominent position in the village. Unusually, the open space is dominated by large boulders which give a sense of the surroundings, but without the associated vegetation. It would be nice to blend these more into the landscape by having a few of them grouped together and plant some trees, ferns and heather in and around them.

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

The statutory bilingual sign was clean and tidy without any flower beds. Given the beautiful rural surroundings, that treatment is most appropriate. As the village is reached, hedgerows and trees frame the approach and then stone walls of varying styles front many properties. The curved road through the village is attractive and forces people to slow down and look around.

Concluding Remarks:

Caherdaniel is an interesting village. So much of it is off the N70, you could easily pass by without realising that there is more to see. We hope you find some useful ideas in this report for future projects.

