

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Chapelton - An Caol** Ref: **331**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **286**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	60	33	34
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	29	29
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>286</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Chapelton An Caol páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

You are fortunate to have 12 committee members and 4 volunteers who help as needed and to also have the support of 3 FAS workers. We note you have frequent contact with each other using texts, email, facebook and telephone calls. Kerry County Council has been a great supporter and you avail of the Rural Social Scheme. Local school children help with litter picking and in the community garden. It is great to have them involved; they will be the Tidy Towns committee of the future.

Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and some photographs. Having looked at your long-term plan summary, we see that many projects are listed. However, to take ownership of this plan, you need to indicate when it will be implemented, because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. Well done on being a participant for 22 years.

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

Your community has some fine buildings such as the church, school and some private houses, but of course you are working hard to deal with the vacant/derelict buildings and well done on that effort. Hopefully your persistence will succeed, and you will gain access to all the properties in your programme. The well-painted church of Sts. Dorarca and Teresa was looking lovely and we admired the 'cross' pattern design on the front gate. The front wall was painted in a blue colour (and white capping) that contrasted pleasantly with the bright colour of the church. The wall to the side of the church grounds is quite different being constructed with stone. A dead tree in the grounds/graveyard should be removed. We note there are younger trees already growing there. The Community Centre is a fine complex and the 'L' shaped national school is sitting on a large site. A recess in the front boundary wall was confusing as regards its purpose. The half barrel container here with Phormium adds very little enhancement (last year's adjudicator mentioned it is now regarded as an invasive plant). Is it possible to plant directly into the ground? This area needs attention. The site with old machinery items stored is a big problem for you. If the owner could have these items converted into a monetary value by selling them as scrap, perhaps it would interest him/her. The efforts to brighten up the blue painted house with large pictures of flowers are commendable.

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

We are pleased to learn that you are reducing the frequency of mowing green spaces and allowing Dandelions to grow. The flowers are liked by pollinators. It is great to read that you have bought bare root trees for planting around the village. Well done. Trees are the main structural elements in the landscape, and it is important that they

be the first priority. Some advice for the future is when planting new trees 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. 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. Well done for including pollinator friendly plants outside both corners of the football field and for planting bee friendly plants elsewhere.

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

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

The wildflower seeds had not advanced much by the time we visited Chapelstown, but we saw the bee hotel inside the fence. Your account of the support you are receiving from the lady who has moved into your community is very interesting. Has she been involved with the school? 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. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. We note you are planning a 'biodiversity' day in July when you will try to list the plants and animals to be found locally. We also advise that you recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). Last year's adjudicator referred to the problem of Japanese Knotweed, an invasive in your area. 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:**

Items mentioned under this heading include using old wood for bee hotels and bird boxes. Reducing the amount of fuel by less mowing which also reduces the task of maintenance. Using less plant containers is a good idea when you can plant directly into the ground. We are glad to see the use of water butts to collect rainwater for plants and flowers; no doubt you have plenty to spare!

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 town 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 that your town can take 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.
- Regarding water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and the task of watering.
- Working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags and 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:**

Well done for collecting 23 bags of rubbish on the wet and windy Spring Clean -up day this year. Your Tidy Town volunteers were assisted by some children from the local school who segregated the litter for recycling purposes. Your work was worthwhile as we saw hardly any litter during our visit. The statutory bilingual sign for Chapelstown looks dirty.

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

Many individual houses that are occupied are well-maintained. Geokaun View is a small estate with large open spaces. The grass is well-maintained but some weeds at the kerb take from its appearance. There is great scope for tree planting on the open space and we advise accordingly.

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

We liked the 'welcome' stone on the approach roads. However, we question the logic of its location being so close to the statutory bilingual sign. The seat and painted kerbs (black and yellow) is inviting. Road surfaces throughout were in good condition.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We enjoyed our visit to Chapelstown. Well done on the various improvements made and we wish you continued

SUCCESS.