

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Cloghane Brandon - An Clochán-Cé Bhréanainn</b>	Ref: <b>2214</b>
County: <b>Kerry</b>	Mark: <b>250</b>
Category: <b>B</b>	Date(s): <b>16/06/2019</b>

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	30	31
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	28	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	28
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>250</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Cloghane Brandon An Clochán-Cé Bhréanainn páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

With eight committee members and another twenty core volunteers you are very fortunate with such a high level of support in your community. You appear well organised in terms of how you assign responsibility to team members. There is an impressive list of supporting organisations, including Kerry County Council, local business firms and 22 other groups. This highlights the strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. The use of Facebook, Parish Bulletins, newspaper and word of mouth are your means of communication. You have several links with Cloghane N. S. which is great, and we note that an increased number of youths assist with your projects. Many thanks for attaching a colourful map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and some photographs. However, in order to locate these, we suggest you include more landmarks. The document entitled "Future Planning" includes a 3-year and a 5-year plan. We suggest that both plans be combined and reformatted to include a column indicating when it is intended to implement the projects, even if it is over a period of years. This is because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. Without that essential information, the list represents ideas for the future, but no action plan.

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

You are actively working with Kerry County Council on several issues including undergrounding overhead cables, improved parking facilities, bilingual signage and road surfacing. Well done on these efforts; we can see the dominance of overhead wires in some parts of the community. We admired the red sandstone church with limestone reveals and cornices. The small flower pots sitting on the railings were noted but these make little impact and are unnecessary here. It is interesting that Cordyline australis (New Zealand Cabbage Tree) in the grounds of the church, sometimes incorrectly referred to as palm trees do so well in the coastal environment of Kerry, which explains their popularity. There is a small shrine framed with hedging in the adjacent car park. The wall of the church property is well painted but on the opposite side of the car park, a concrete block wall needs enhancement. Climbing plants such as ivy planted at the base is our suggestion. There is already ivy growing over the top of the wall from the other side. Siopa an Phobail agus BÁCÚS Bhréanainn caught our eye with its inviting picnic tables and several information boards. Mount Brandon Hostel with its façade of stone looked very well. Halla Le Cheile in its marine blue colour looked splendid. We enjoyed our visit to Brandon Point; the scenery was wonderful.

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

We very much liked the Bothar Bui flower bed that highlights the twinning sign (with Plozevet, France) and compliment you for the use of low growing perennial plants. It was well-maintained. O'Callaghan's Nature Garden is a lovely feature that is very well done but the word "nature" is misleading. This garden is constructed to a very high standard with formal paving and seats and planted with Lupins, Lavender etc. that made a great display for our visit. The garden is like an oasis facing the estuary, but it doesn't contain any native plants and could be considered out of place. However, we liked it very much and noted its construction from the pictures you attached and wish to compliment all involved.

With such beautiful surroundings, you have to be careful when you introduce flowers to your wonderful part of the country. In that regard, we travelled to Fermoy Beach to view the flower bed and were surprised to see rubber tubes with some flowers beside refuse bins. This type of intervention (which we note you have called pipe flower beds) in your natural landscape is not in harmony with the surroundings and we suggest they be removed and just keep the area free of litter and manage the vegetation to ensure that the 'Drom' name stone remains visible. 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 attention, such as the visible pipes here. The green and black bins are the most dominant feature here and we note the ground around them is sprayed with weedkiller. Our suggestion is to prepare a screened area for the bins (perhaps a timber fence) and have them less visible. Blue boxes sitting on top of a stone wall are planted with flowers. They would best be painted the same colour as the fencing and allow the flowers to be better seen. The use of an old tyre container does not enhance your community and does not comply with the guidelines for plant containers outlined above.

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. Several small circular flower beds surrounded by stones are located

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

Well done on removing the Phormium plants suggested by last year's adjudicator. Keep up the effort in spotting invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed before they get out of control. 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. During our visit to Fermoy Beach, we came across a small (hump back) stone bridge which had the most wonderful population of oxeye daisies we have ever seen. This was most exciting for us and we suggest that you promote this natural beauty within your community for next year's application. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. We are pleased to learn that Cloghane NS pupils are engaging in a project on birds to increase their knowledge and awareness of the diversity of bird life in your community. Activities such as workshops for butterfly monitoring are most appropriate and we note your plans to grow more bee-friendly plants in future schemes. You have adopted a specific mowing regime for managing grassed areas on approach roads and around flower beds which encourages more wildflower development.

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

Under this heading you have listed the move to compostable cups and discounts for reusable cups in An Siopa. The use of left-over decking for wooden planters, used battery collection points and the community garden. Well done to the school children and teachers for the green flags; please let us know in future under which criteria the flags were awarded.

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?

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.
- 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 and reminding people to re-use shopping bags.
- 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 / Slachtmhairacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Actions listed here include participation in the annual County Clean-up, development of anti-litter policy for events and working with local businesses in combating litter and promoting environmental awareness and you removed the

rusting clothes bank that was mentioned in last year's report. Well done on these efforts and we noted that local property owners are cooperating in maintaining their property and road frontage. The work of your team and dedicated volunteers in collecting litter and debris from the community and the beach is paying dividends as we were pleased to see a high standard of tidiness and litter control.

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

Individual houses in your wide community are very house proud. Occupied houses are well painted in attractive colours, some with stone facades and many residents have added floral enhancement with window boxes.

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

The name stone for An Clochán is a little small and quite low to the ground (hard to see) and the few flowers are in scale with its size. However, there is space to the left which would allow a more significant welcome stone and a few more plants for enhancement. Several stone walls in and around the community look very well and add great character. Signposts were clean.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

You have a lovely part of the country and well done for your efforts in keeping it clean and tidy. We hope you find useful information for further improvements in this report.