

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lauragh - An Láithreach** Ref: **344**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **270**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	42
Streetscape & Public Places	60	33	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	33	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	26
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>270</b>

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

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

Your community of less than 100 population, has 5/6 committee members (a subsidiary of Lauragh Community Council) and plenty of volunteers when needed. You are a participant since 2004 and the community is pleased to be involved.

In addition to Kerry County Council, you have support from Josie's Restaurant, Derreen Gardens, Cork Bar and Catering and some other business interests. Communications are done through the Mass leaflets, the notice board in the car park and the use of email and telephone. Local school children help with your clean-up programme. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with a key at the bottom. However, while the map numbers go up to 31, the legend stops at 29. May we suggest that it would be easier to find locations if the numbers were in a sequence. Thank you for attaching a three-year plan (2019-2021) prepared by a Consultancy firm. You need to take ownership of this plan by inserting information on when you plan to have the various actions implemented. To gain more marks next year, please mention more projects for adjudication.

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

While you have lost the Post Office and the Garda Station, at least both buildings have a new use that will help the village to grow. St. Killian's Church looked very well. The car park fits in well on the roadside. Phil O'Sullivan Memorial Park is a fine GAA facility with a clubhouse. The white painted An Sibín Café looks well at the road junction. The National School is most unusual with its mosaics on the basement wall beside the steps at the car park. There is a fine play area at the rear of the school and a playground with a slide. The Community Centre is well painted and sits proudly on a hill. Some tree planting in the car park would help to regulate parking and enhance its appearance. A small grotto almost hidden with vegetation was admired.

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

You have not listed any projects under this criterion therefore, we will use this opportunity to provide some guidelines. The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have many good examples in and around Lauragh. However, there are opportunities for you to plant more trees for future generations, for example, at the Community Centre car park.

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. Some container planting was observed at the school building. At Lauragh Cross there is a triangular shaped raised bed defined with a low stone wall. This feature is essentially a location for directional and finger post signs. It is appropriately planted with ferns. 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 you are well aware of the variety of wildlife that prevails there and have listed some of the fauna in the application. Being aware of wildlife is important but it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. 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. 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 measures that your village can take in regard to sustainability.

- Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced.
- Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using.
- 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 containers and 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, 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.

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 action under this heading is regular litter picks. It is suggested that you should also examine signs and poles to ensure they are clean. Poles can get rusty and need cleaning and painting, such as the one holding the sign at the recycling bins. The school sign and a yield sign also needed cleaning. The recycling bins are tidy and are sitting on a raised plinth. There was some rubbish beside them. When these type of bins were first introduced, they were placed in prominent locations to ensure that people would use them. That has worked but now the trend is to place them in less conspicuous locations or to screen them in some way with fencing or hedges. The Community notice board is a great idea to reduce the number of posters and signs in your village. The fire escape of the Community Centre was rusty.

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

Even though you do not have residential estates, you still have housing areas and we are pleased to state that private houses all looked very well. Mourlin Lodge with its attractive stone wall entrance caught our eye.

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

What is very noticeable in Lauragh is the wonderful sylvan approach from all directions. This is enhanced by the winding roads which require drivers to go slowly through the glens to enjoy the many layers of vegetation including ferns, hedgerows and trees. Timber fences are used to demarcate the road/boundary edge near the church, the school and the Community Centre; this looks very well.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Lauragh for the first time and discover your beautiful surroundings. Please refer to the long term plan and aim to complete more projects for next year's application.

