

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moyvane - Maigh Mheáin** Ref: **347**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **299**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	46	46
Streetscape & Public Places	60	36	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	293	299

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Moyvane Maigh Mheáin páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

It is great that your 14-member committee are supported by another 8 volunteers. You are an active group with a minimum of monthly meetings, and you attend workshops and seminars throughout the year. We counted 18 various public bodies and private groups that support your efforts and it seems you maintain a strong communication line with the community through public meetings, a newsletter, text alerts and a website. The School Liaison Officer plays an important role by engaging with the school in promoting litter awareness and coordinating clean-ups with the children. We are pleased to learn that participation in the competition for the past 18 years has benefitted your community by improving its appearance and providing a focus for local people. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention. May we suggest that you work on improving this map for next year. If you prepare a good base map, it will be easy to amend the details every year. Please remember that adjudicators will most likely not be familiar with your community and the map is very important in assisting their jury visit. Therefore, please make details such as landmarks, church, school etc., in large print and make the project numbers large enough to conveniently read and place them in sequential order on the map. So, you have some work to do between now and next year. We note your long-term plan, but please indicate the timelines for each project.

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

The large enterprise of Newtown Sandes Co-op was well-painted. Further on, Speedys Bar and Lounge was well presented, and we noted the adjacent site is for sale. The Village Grill looked well and enhanced with floral displays. We also noted displays on the 'All Star Bar' next door but also some weeds growing on the roof. Stacks Restaurant was well presented and O'Bronnacáin commanded the corner view on Main Street and Church Road. The blue colour looks well with white reveals around window and doors. The school and the church are located adjacent to each other. While they are fine buildings, it was disappointing to see a lack of landscape treatment, especially trees. Schools are institutions of learning and it is important that there would be trees in the school grounds; there is plenty of space. We did not see a Green Flag flying at the school. There are some trees in the car park on the other side of the church and well done for having a landscaped strip to help break up the hard surface area of the car park. Unfortunately, the species choice, which is a mix, could have been much better. It is advisable to select just one species when planting trees in a line so that they establish and grow at a similar rate and make a good impression. It would be better if these were all one species, oak, maple, lime or ash. The species planted here are not doing well and we advise having an arboriculturist inspect and make improvement recommendations. Further out Church Road there is the Community Sports Centre and then the local GAA pitch and facilities. It is marvellous to have such high standard facilities in a small community and well done for having

the surface of the car park being tarmacadamed. On the road outside the Sports complex, the tree and shrub planting is not doing well. We suggest that an arboriculturist/horticulturist investigate these schemes and make recommendations. Marian Hall looks very well, but have you considered a little garden here as was suggested by last year's adjudicator?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and this should be your focus under this criterion. We have already commented on a lack of trees at the school and the church and how the trees in the church car park need attention and perhaps a redesign/replanting. The nature trail is an exception; it is a wonderful location to experience mature trees and listen to the various sounds that emanate from them, especially during summertime. In 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.

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. Empty or poorly planted containers are less effective than no plant container at all. 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:

The nature trail which starts beside the church and ends on the Knockanure Road is excellent. The choice of a green, blue, red or yellow walk for different lengths and different routes makes it more interesting. The path is very well surfaced with tarmacadam and the entrances are clearly marked. There are wonderful trees growing here, particularly at the southern end of the walkway beside Wood Grove estate and on the knockanure roadside. These trees were full of birds sounds mainly crows that were making the most noise. The signage is very high quality and the fence and hedge set it off. 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. You are working with some local farmers who have joined the "GLAS" scheme. Some of the actions following include encouraging local bees with bee boxes and sand heaps. Preventing grazing from a 2m. strip along watercourses and planting native apple trees. In addition, you are pursuing similar initiatives.

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 village is playing its part by including suggestions for water and waste minimisation in the annual newsletter. The promotion of reusable coffee cups in the Gala shop is no doubt becoming more successful each day as people become familiar with the idea. Using the recycling bins for various materials and having a clothes collection through the school. 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. In that regard, we observed mown grass being dumped at the base of a fence near the church car park. It would be better to mow frequently and leave the grass on the ground.
- 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 / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We have mentioned above a problem of grass dumping at the base of a fence near the church car park. It should either be composted or left where it was mown. The Estuary old service station is an eyesore of which you are no doubt aware. You have been battling with this problem for many years and have removed dustbins from parts of the village because they were being used for domestic refuse. It is great to have the Solus/RSS participants to do the

litter clean-up on Mondays and your committee, local residents, school children and their teachers do regular litter clean-ups at other times and the collected material is segregated for recycling purposes. You have many actions under this heading so congratulations on the huge efforts taken to improve your community. We are pleased to report that litter was not a problem in Moyvane and the various signs were clean. There are a few items mentioned under Approach Roads below, but overall the impression is good.

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

We admired the shrub planting in the grounds of a residence with An Cheartain written on the front wall. The two-storey house with a pinkish brown colour on the first level and the gable caught our eye. Further on, we noted another two-storey house, painted in yellow and brown. In general, private residencies are in good condition and well-maintained. We suggest that there is plenty of scope to improve the landscape treatment in private gardens by planting more trees, hedges or shrubs.

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

On the approach from Tarbert, we admired the many stone wall boundaries of private gardens. A pair of rusty farm gates needs attention and further on a well-painted cottage has a rusty corrugated roof. We liked the 'Failte' sign placed in a strategic location enhanced with a flower bed with a stone surround. It was disappointing to see some untidiness near this sign. Road surfaces are poor in many parts of the village. Last year's adjudicator referred to the problem of cars parked on the footpath on Church Street near Main Street. While resolving this problem may not be easy, it is an important matter for pedestrian safety.

Concluding Remarks:

You have a lovely village and have great scope to implement more improvements through landscape treatment. We hope that this report provides some guidance for your future work.