

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville - An Coireán** Ref: **352**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **307**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	43	43
Streetscape & Public Places	60	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	65	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>307</b>

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

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

Six committee members and another twelve who support you is good representation for a town of your size after 24 years in the competition. You are fortunate to avail of three CE Scheme workers as well, because they can cover when some volunteers might not be available. You have ambitions to launch #watervillegoesgreen project given the support of Sea Energy and Waterville Enterprise and Marketing network. You have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools and receive support from local businesses and public bodies, including Kerry County Council officials and elected members. The AGM was held in April and after that you use Facebook, newspapers and newsletter. You also liaise directly with the business community and other agencies and continue to work with schools and that involvement is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and some photographs. Regarding the map, we would like if it was larger and have more landmarks, such as the church, hotels, directional information and please ensure that the font is large enough to be easily read – we had to procure a magnifying glass. Also, please arrange numbers in a sequence which means we can find them quickly. Regarding the photographs, it is best to insert them within the application under the relevant criterion and please reduce their size to save on paper. The typed information for our attention in the application is too small; we suggest you use a larger font and even a different colour to make it stand out on the page and be easier to read. Also, try and be briefer in your descriptions. Remember 'less is more' when it comes to the time taken to read the application. While we commend your entry, we consider it too large, but we like the way it is inclusive of the community and business interests. We liked the summary of the three-year plan.

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

We admired the work done at the Restaurant extension to Butler Arms Hotel. It is to a high standard. There is a wonderful array of buildings in Waterville that are delightful. The Tech Amergin building and grounds look well. Premises that attracted our attention were Skellig Meats, High Tides, Madeleine Maria Weber Gallery, The Lobster, the Jolly Swagman Bar, Centra and An Tigin Crafts and Gift Shop. St. Finian's National School is well painted. but we missed a Green Flag. The former Cable Station is a beautiful old stone building in a spacious setting. It is surprising that it is enclosed with a concrete wall on which a low railing is mounted. We expected it would at least be stone-faced, but perhaps that can be a future project. We admired the Cable Station Heritage Trail, in particular, the attractive sculptured pieces of cable. Waterville Craft Market on the northern approach presents an interesting display of agricultural machinery. A low stone boundary wall looks well here and contrasts with the tall stone highlighting the Heritage Trail. In the items listed in your application, three are new projects, including a revamped Community Centre which looked very well, a different management approach for the spaces around Marina House

and the Tennis Courts, by establishing wildflowers to encourage better pollination and improvements at the Grotto. Other works included painting the IRD building and the walls at Ard Aoibhinn. We note your several more FP projects and wish you luck for next year's entry.

It is nice that you have honoured your native man Mick O'Dwyer for his wonderful success in GAA for Kerry and elsewhere in Ireland, with a park on the coastal part of the town centre. The sculpture of Mick in an action pose is very well done and the setting of a low stone in a curve behind the statue with plaques depicting his triumphs is a lovely tribute and is well-maintained. The small plant containers on each side of the wall with images of Charlie Chaplin are eye catching. Further on, the statue of Charlie Chaplin in a similar setting pays tribute to his time spent in Waterville. The dramatic 'Ártach Dana' sculpture by Holger Lonze makes significant visual impact, well done on its completion. Even though we feel there is too much text on the stones explaining its importance, we enjoyed reading the detail. Dr. Millerick's Garden is another tribute to a popular person lived with you for 11 years and died in 1898. He must have been a very special person.

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

The main structural elements in the landscape are trees and you have some good examples in Waterville. 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. In choosing which species to plant, the emphasis should be on native species in most situations because they are better adapted to our climate and will support wildlife much better than non-native species, such as the flowering cherries which were planted at Ard Aoibhinn. Cherry trees are short lived, and the flowers last approximately one week in Spring, so it would have been better to plant oak trees which are native and will live for 1,000 years. Mick O'Dwyer Park has become a place art features/sculptures of people and mythology. Understandably, because of the severe salt laden winds it is difficult to establish trees on this site and instead, it is a grassed area which is enjoyed in summer sunshine. The low stone walls around Dr. Milerrick's Garden adds additional interest. To add more greenery in terms of height that would help to reduce wind speeds for those using the seats, the use of hedges such as holly or Olearia might be successful; they have worked elsewhere in Kerry, including Waterville. Well done on planting spring bulbs, even though we do not see them on our visit.

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. In that regard, we suggest you reconsider the style and location of plant containers. The most successful ones are those which are hidden by the flowers. If you can plant straight into the ground, choose that option unless you have particular problems of seawater that would impact on the flowers. 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. You are fortunate to have four important habitats which you have listed. The Butterfly garden has extra planting to build up more berry and herb species. Well done on this and for including wildflowers as part of your Pollinator Plan. Sneem embankment will take another while to establish and for the wildflowers to be at their best. Congratulations on implementing a policy of not using the conventional chemical weed killers; we are pleased to note your success with Vinegar, Epsom Salt and Ecover and for sharing that information on your Facebook page. Please include some pictures next year of areas treated in this way. Well done on the Bioblitz events held to celebrate National Biodiversity Week in May.

Raising awareness through holding events such as this, or hedgerow walks or bat walks is very important. 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. You have detailed 15 initiatives that directly relate to this criterion and demonstrate your understanding of what is required. Well done on the promotion of "Plastic Free July" and please mention how it fared in next year's application. Having talks by experts is always worthwhile, especially when the topic is "Stop Food Waste" so well done on that project and the associated activities that followed. Installing a water fountain for people to refill their flasks/cups is a great idea which has been done in several other towns and villages. In many towns and villages, it is in the schools where sustainability measures discussed and projects undertaken, but you did not mention anything what is happening in your local school. Perhaps that can be included in next year's application

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:**

You are hard at work on collecting litter for the annual County Clean-Up day and the regular litter patrols. It is good to know that the 3 pieces of plastic project is working well. It is interesting to learn that people are becoming more

conscious of collecting litter but less tuned into recycling at home. The cigarette butt bins are usually placed outside pubs where the clients come out for a smoke, so we are not surprised to learn that elsewhere, people used them as litter bins. The recycling banks at the Community Centre are a little too conspicuous and we note your plans to screen them. No doubt, they will still be used as people are now accustomed to travelling there with their bottles, cans etc. Overhead cables spoil the view in many places, and we suggest you work with Kerry County Council with a view to having these placed underground when an opportunity arises at some future date. Usually this can happen when a street upgrade takes place.

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

The Iveragh residential estate comprises mainly colourful detached and semi-detached houses surrounding the former Cable Station with terraced housing facing the N70. All have at least front gardens and we note that Cordyline australis, the New Zealand Cabbage Tree is a popular choice and it has the advantage of being able to survive the coastal climate. There is plenty of natural greenery in this vicinity. Concrete block walls dominate the view and we suggest that the use of climbing plants such as ivy planted at the base of the walls would in a few years help to soften their dull appearance. St. Fintan's Terrace has a wide linear open space between it and Seaview terrace. Since there is plenty of space available, it would be worthwhile establishing trees on this linear strip to enhance the houses and the road and to help reduce wind speeds. Since trees with clear stems will have difficulty establishing, we suggest several groups of trees to be planted as whips/transplants that will not require staking and be quicker establishing. The species recommended is Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) as it can withstand a coastal climate. After some years, they can be thinned by removing some specimens and the rest will make a significant impact in years to come.

Most private houses in and around Waterville are in good condition and well-maintained. Well done to all for supporting your campaign.

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

We liked the way the statutory town sign sits in the landscape without and flowers being planted around it. That is entirely appropriate for your coastal location and the distance from the town centre. Well-painted finger post signs were a delight in Mick O'Dwyer Park. Traditional stone walls are very worthwhile, and it is great to see so many of them on the approach roads, including those at the golf club.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We were delighted with our visit to Waterville and to see the great work being done by your committee and its supporters. Keep up the good work.