

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigallen - Carraig
Álainn** Ref: **424**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **273**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	37
Streetscape & Public Places	60	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	30
TOTAL MARK	470	266	273

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo faille roim Carrigallen (Carraig Alainn) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019

Thank you kindly for your completed entry form and sketch map of the village which was a great benefit to the adjudicator as this was his very first time visiting Carrigallen.

The main committee of 10 is ideal to manage the projects and ongoing work, having 14 plus volunteers that you can call on is very impressive.

That kind of commitment is paying dividends as you the village has progressed gradually in the competition since you first entered over twenty years ago.

It is good to report that you have developed links with both Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company.

Similarly the relationships that you have with local organisations and with the wider community of the parish seems to suggest that you have strong support in your efforts to help the village to progress in the Tidy Towns competition in the years ahead.

One notices that you depend very much on the tried and trusted methods of communication such as texts and local parish notes to get the message of your activities into the public domain.

You should consider adding some forms of social media such as Facebook and Whats App to your list in order to get to a wider audience and to make people, the younger generation in particular, more aware of your work.

This could also result in getting new members who would bring additional skills to your committee and volunteer core.

The adjudicator feels that it would be in the committee's interest to consider doing a simple 2/3 year plan with objectives, work schedule and timescales within which actions need to be completed.

Suggest that you get in touch with the relevant sections of either Leitrim County Council or Leitrim Development Company to avail of resource support to help you devise such a plan.

Funding for this type development plan may be available through a local development programme but one has to make the initial contact in the first place.

Thank you for your positive endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to your community down through the years of involvement.

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

The new section of footpath that extends to the GAA Grounds is certainly a big addition to the infrastructure of the village as it allows local inhabitants easier access to the said grounds than heretofore.

The said ground Pairc Carraig Alain is a fine facility that is used by the community for leisure events as well as

games.

It was noticeable around this time that the Club were preparing to host young members of clubs from other parts of the country who were participating in the U 14 Girls All Ireland Feile Football Competition.

St Marys Catholic Church on the Longford Road was presented to a high standard and the surrounding grounds were maintained in excellent fashion.

The adjoining graveyard was neat and tidy so well done to the CE Scheme personnel who keep it in such good order.

Similarly the Presbyterian Church on the Arva exit was well maintained.

Parking for worshipers was adequate but a bit tight on what is quite a busy road into County Cavan.

The previously mentioned Ghairm Scoil An Charraig Alainn is a fine educational establishment serving the local area and this was also well presented well.

It was noted that school has one or two water butts installed to save rain water which is more than likely for school use.

The Community Hall is a very large building that one would more associate with a much bigger town and it is credit to those in a previous past who were responsible for the construction of such a fine community facility.

It has a large car park that is used by locals and visitors alike and that alleviates somewhat! street side parking.

The local library has a very vibrant colour scheme and an attractive and appropriate wall sign and of course is situated in a very central part of the village.

The National School has an unusual purple colour scheme but that aside it was in very good condition and had its green flag well visible.

Carrigallen Primary Care Centre is relatively new HSE building that is vibrant looking and well presented.

The Memorial Stones commemorating natives of Carrigallen who fought in World War 1 and Thomas J Clarke and Peter Galligan both involved in the Easter Rising of 1916 are in a very appropriate setting side by side in a focal point of the village.

The following are a number of commercial premises that appealed to the adjudicator for varying reasons:

John O Malley Butchers and Mitchells Bar & Restaurant, JJ Dolan old style shop front and Kilbracken Arms a very busy establishment.

There are a number of unoccupied premises that are in a poor state of repair and need fairly immediate attention and these are well known to the committee.

The condition of road surfaces were in general good and the addition of new footpaths has greatly enhanced the entrance from the Mohill.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Much maintenance work has been carried out in this category particularly in the green area at the lake which looked as if it had just been cut and gives a nice vista as one approaches from Mohill.

The adjudicator walked out to this area after parking up in the village and took the steps down to the Lakeside.

The area that has the commemoration stones has a nice appropriate planting feature that has all year round effect and is complemented by an excellent wooden surround wicket fence.

Colourful widow boxes, tubs, hanging baskets and permanent planting arrangements were observed at various premises and junctions in the village and a number of these have been

This alone merits and increase of an additional mark but the adjudicator would encourage you to seek advice from the County Horticultural Section to look at the possibility of a revised planting plan for the village and surrounds.

It feels that there is more potential that can be exploited in this category and that a review of what is in place at the moment would be the catalyst to draw up a planting plan that would form part of the overall work plan suggested in the first category.

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

The key components of this adjudication category are:

a) Knowledge of local species and habitats and of local designated areas.

b) Being able to promote the knowledge gained to the local community and the passing visitor in format that would be easily accessed such as wildlife information boards in a central locations.

Good wildlife advice and communication of the importance of the local wildlife heritage to the local community is so important

Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knot weed is also essential.

In your submission you have identified the lake and the surrounding area as a natural habitat that other centres would not have at their disposal.

The diversity of fauna and flora is wonderful and you have named these for the purpose of this part of entry form.

To make the public aware of these is your next objective and to do this you need advice from the County Wildlife Ranger or equivalent who will direct you how to go about such a task.

Personally the adjudicator would see this lake side green area as the ideal location for a wildlife information panel.

Support for this type of project could be forthcoming from a few sources.

You should also take into account the need to promote pollination by having designated areas assigned for wild flower or meadow planting.

To access information on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan go to www.biodiversityireland.ie

Give consideration to getting the school children of senior primary classes as well as pupils from the vocational school involved.

This will be of mutual benefit to both the committee and the children as knowledge of local wildlife habitats need to be handed down through the generations to ensure that they are not lost.

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

The objective in this category has moved on to some extent from of reduce reuse and recycle to one of promoting the concept of reducing the production of potential waste at source such as excessive packaging.

Doing more with less is a slogan that will be seen more in the public domain in future years ahead as we come to realise that we cannot continue to produce what I would term as convenience waste to the degree that we have been doing up to now.

Activities that describe how as a community you manage waste and promote efficient use of resources and promote awareness is the key to gaining marks in this category.

As a matter of interest this is the first time in your entry that the adjudicator saw reference to the preparation of a 5 year plan and that you have made an application for funding for same.

Well done on this but it should have been included from the outset in the Community – Your Planning and Involvement and the adjudicator would not have had to advocate such a need!

Much of what you have included in this category has been replicated in other centres around the country. For further idea generation and to come up with some novel ideas for your community do consult the following:

www.localprevention.ie for ideas would be www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

The adjudicator would also suggest that you engage with the County Environmental Officer to keep abreast with environmental awareness trends as well as contributing input to this section of your proposed 5 year plan.

While on the subject of planning it is felt that a 3 year plan is more practical in terms of timescales and focus.

Also something that this adjudicator has become aware of is the circular economy.

It is a bit too long to explain the concept in detail in this report, but if you access the following www.dccae.gov.ie you will get a pretty good idea of what it's all about.

The idea of what is called a linear economy of "take, make and waste" is now being seen as not sustainable and alternatives need to be found.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The standard in this category was good and it is good to be able to report that you have worked hard to get the message that Carrigallen is anti litter out there to the public effectively.

As stated in a previous section the village is all but free from unsightly overhead wiring and this is a big plus in terms of general tidiness.

Unoccupied premises that are falling into a further state of disrepair have been commented upon in a previous section.

Signs both name, speed limit and directional were in the main clean and visible.

The Bring Bank was tidy and well managed.

Two back and side areas in a central enough part of the village need to be tidied up a little more.

The adjudicator would encourage the committee to get the message to all home and business owners to keep frontages and side areas as tidy as possible.

The overall conclusion after traversing the village and its extremities is that because of your efforts to promote the need for tidiness and good general litter control an additional mark is merited.

Tidiness and litter control will form an important segment of your proposed plan and you are asked to give an update for next year's entry form.

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

Well done on residents of Church Street being involved in the Adopt a Road programme, this is very much the essence of voluntary support that you as a committee are getting from the local community.

The memorial area or garden as it is referred to here has been favourably commented upon in a previous section.

All the housing estates or clusters as this adjudicator prefers to call them were visited and noted.

The surface of the road in Cluain Alainn was a bit rough in places and one wonders why the manhole covers are raised more than a few inches above the surface.

Cois Locha is a housing development that has a wonderful setting on the lake front and it is well looked after and some private gardens have matured nicely with attractive planting arrangements to be seen

The small private housing cluster just beyond the well appointed B&B Grenville House was compact and the immediate surrounds were tidy with houses presented in an acceptable manner.

Church Manor out the Longford Road is quite a large development of approximately 30 houses and this was also well presented with communal area tidy.

The fact that most of these housing developments have residents associations has helped to keep standard of presentation uniformly good,

Ensure that representatives from all these residents associations are consulted at the discussion stage of the 3/5 year plan.

Overall the standard in this category warranted an increase in marks.

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

The standard in this category was also good with most entrances into the village maintained in accordance with good practice for the preservation of wildlife.

The Mohill/Cloone entrance was very acceptable and the extended new footpath enhances it even further

Longford Road was good but a lot of farm related activity residue was seen on the roadside on the day of adjudication as silage making was at its peak.

Overall the standard was good and on par with what was reported on in last year's report but more to be done by way of enhancement and without overtly suggesting the obvious this section will come under review as part of the Plan.

Concluding Remarks:

Carrigallen is very fine village and on the evening in question it was populated with more than a few overseas visitors who were visiting Leitrim for lake fishing.

The village has far more potential in the competition and you are taking the right steps in preparing a timed work plan that you can work to.

You are wished well in the future and one hopes that you will move further up the Tidy Town rankings in the County over the next few years