

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fenagh - Fionach** Ref: **429**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **304**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	60	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	24
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	20	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	43	43
TOTAL MARK	470	297	304

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo failte roimh Fenagh (Fiodhnach) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019.

Thank you for your very concise entry form with inserted pictorial records of your work and also your map which was very well designed and more than suitable for the task in hand.

The committee of 12 and 3 volunteers is a suitable structure for a village the size of Fenagh and it's very obvious that this is dynamic unit judging by all the work that you have been involved in over the years and the results of which are seen how the village looks today.

Fenagh takes in a pretty large area and the adjudicator took in out as far as the RC Church and its grounds.

Whether this area was under consideration was open to debate as the map supplied didn't make any reference to it. Anyway it made no difference to the judging as the standard was uniformly good overall and excellent in some aspects.

Your methods of communication are varied and you get the message to the community in effective manner.

Word of mouth that very new form of social media!!is still one of your main organs of messaging and you know what it cannot be beaten by any of these modern methods of social media.

Your Facebook page is very up to date with information and pictures relevant to the village and parish.

Good to note that you have a fledgling Junior Tidy towns Committee in place this will stand to both the youth and indeed the community in the years ahead.

There are a fair number of various agencies that are on your list and one notes that you do engage with other tidy towns committee as well as the local authority and development agencies.

Has Leitrim a Tidy Towns Network Group like other counties?

Some of the project updates that you have given will be covered under the relevant headings.

Thanks for your update on your future plans and thank you also for your endorsement of the competition and what it has meant to your community.

A very professional approach to planning for the future based on what has been achieved in the past earns you an increase in marks.

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

The adjudicator has taken note of and has visited the diverse range of improvements and additional artefacts that enhance your village.

At this juncture let me congratulate you on the manner in which you were able to condense this information and combine it with pictorial inserts.

One would wish if other centres could do something similar and reduce the volume of add on material that accompanies some entries.

The adjudicator was impressed with the reincarnation of the old hay rake into a piece of village furniture- top marks for creativity to who ever came up with this idea doubt if it was a committee decision.

It's amazing the transformation that a re surfaced road or a new footpath can make to a small village so well done on being able to leverage these improvements.

The adjudicator did a very detailed walkabout and these are some of the observations noted.

The licences premises that is in the centre of the village that was closed looks as if it was about to reopen.

The housing scheme up from it on the Ballinamore road and featured in your entry was noted and painting obviously has made a great difference here.

The stone boundary wall featured a nice planting arrangement that was in full bloom and will be referred to in the next section.

The delightful village map on the information panel was admired for its design and indeed its accuracy; excellent selection of legends depicting parts of the village with a little pocket history places aka the Handball Alley.

The use of recycled material like corrugated iron for the kids' art murals on the other side of the road would fit the bill in another category as well.

The Fenagh Visitor Centre was one of the highlights of the adjudication and the lady that oversaw the centre and its offices that served the community was so helpful and informative.

You are lucky to have people of this calibre at your disposal.

The quality of signage was top class and certainly the village history was promoted at various points

The handball alley is a great community asset and the game in the parish must be still extremely popular as this is a very up to date facility.

The quality of road surfaces, footpaths, street lighting was top class.

The adjudicator also visited the RC Church further out the Carrick road and this was presented to a very high standard with ample and organised car parking slots for worshippers.

There are one or two buildings that were not up to the standard of the rest of the village and no doubt the committee are aware of these.

Overall the standard of presentation and new additions over the last year has earned you an increase in marks.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Your point on the lack of green spaces and how you have adapted to provide colourful planting schemes at intervals around was noted and indeed observed during the walkabout.

I would agree with last year's adjudicator observation that not having a large number of green spaces took away from the attractiveness of your village.

The arrangements at the visitor centre were a sight to behold and it took creative imagination to put these in places.

I'm not sure if I agree totally with last year's comments on hanging baskets if they are suitable to your requirements and are placed at areas that need brightening up well no problem; it's a question of taste and horses for courses.

You seem to have personnel within your committee who have good handle on suitable planting and landscaping and there were other arrangements that that took the eye of the adjudicator including the boat full of bedding begonias near the little herb garden.

Excellent work being done in maintaining all your flower beds and shrub beds like the one across from the visitor centre.

It takes quite a lot of man/woman hours to maintain these in what is a rather large area so well done on that.

For work done in the last year and more importantly for the excellent ongoing maintenance work an increase in marks is awarded.

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 knowledge of local designated areas and 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 location.

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.

You got pretty extensive advice from last year's adjudicator and there is no need to add to it except to say that you have well embraced the objective contained in the introductory paragraph.

It is good to note that you have joined the All Ireland pollinator plan.

The bat boxes at the Visitor Centre were noted when a stop was made for tea and a very interesting with the lady in charge who incidentally wasn't from the parish but sold it so well.

Let's not digress too much.

What impressed the adjudicator most in this category was the quality and design of the wildlife signs and information boards.

Community composting is a very important facility and well done on this initiative as it helps locals to dispose of grass cuttings in a proper fashion.

Overall the standard as presented was very good.

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

The objective in this category has moved on from one 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 very apt slogan that should be more in the public domain than it is at present.

You have embraced the concept of this very well judging from the list and diversity of mini projects that you are involved in.

The creation of a piece of village furniture from an old hay rake being a perfect example as well as the kids' arts murals being painted on recycled corrugated iron.

Well done on keeping up-to-date on new trends in this category by keeping in touch with other groups of like minded committees.

To get more out of this sector in terms of creating even a greater awareness of all things that contribute to a more sustainable environment consider looking at the following websites for idea generation.

www.localprevention.ie , www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Also something that this adjudicator became aware of during last year's adjudication 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:

Well done on the removal of random signs from road side verges as these can be so unsightly and at times obstructive.

They advertise everything from garden fetes to Mike Denver and spring up like mushrooms especially during summertime.

One has to compliment you on the way the bring bank is managed and its is very well sited with easy access for users.

The two flower arrangements at each side add a little enhancement to the area.

In fairness well done to the local community too for adhering to good practice.

Ongoing maintenance under the headings that you have included here has made sure that village looked its best when visited.

One or two back areas that need a little tidying up but most homestead owners have kept their places in very good condition.

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

Well done to you the committee for the ongoing work you do with developers to make sure that the unfinished developments are kept tidy at least.

So many of these unfinished developments have been seen to fall into total decay in parts of the country and there is often no comeback.

The village core is quite small and residents have presented their respective homesteads and front gardens in good fashion.

The adjudicator didn't see any real problematic premises and it certainly seems that residents value your work.

The old cottage referred to in your submission was visited and the transformation that a coat of paint makes can be quite effective.

Overall the standard was very good.

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

Road in from Cloone is very good with Humbert Road heritage panel insight to history of 1798.

Wonder if area across is to be developed as a feature as it looks as if some work was ongoing

This looked as if it was once a milk churn pick up area.

The Mohill entrance was also very inviting but there seemed to be a number of what seemed like abandoned JCBs inside the wall at a site across the road from the Protestant Church.

The adjudicator took a trip on the Carrick Road out to the Church and was very impressed with the features on the roadside.

Using used tyres as features for planting arrangements has been discouraged by ibecause of the toxic nature of the material and its perceived harmful effect on the environment.

But one has to say that the tractor tyre mini project with fruit trees was very eye catching and creative.

Concluding Remarks:

It was the adjudicator's very first visit to Fenagh in Leitrim and what a pleasant one it was.

The adjudicator was very impressed with the work that the Tidy Towns Committee has been involved over the years.

For a small community you have achieved so much and have helped to put some wonderful facilities in place.

The standard of ongoing maintenance is top class.

The lady that is involved in managing your visitor centre is a great ambassador for the area.

You are wished well for the years ahead.