

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Jamestown - Cill Srenain** Ref: **431**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **301**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2019**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2018 | Mark Awarded 2019 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 60 | 41 | 41 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 60 | 38 | 39 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 60 | 41 | 42 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 50 | 26 | 26 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 50 | 26 | 26 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 57 | 58 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 33 | 34 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 35 | 35 |
| TOTAL MARK | 470 | 297 | 301 |

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo failte roimh Jamestown (Cill Srianain) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019.

Thank you for the concise entry form, map of the village and other material related to the very successful Jamestown Heritage Village.

It was nice to visit you village after an absence of 10 years plus.

The map as was the case last year was not really fit for purpose as it just gave basic information so maybe you might consider producing a prepared map that would prove useful as a tourist and heritage guide as well.

The committee of 10 with the additional volunteer core of 16 is an ideal structure to manage the work of Tidy Towns in the village.

The list of agencies that you are involved in is impressive and like a number of places along the Shannon River corridor you deal with two local authorities as well as the Fisheries Board and the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland.

One notes that village residents have a strong commitment to the Heritage Festival and this must have some spin off benefit for Tidy Towns.

The Festival Programme for last year's event had an impressive line and support was obviously forthcoming from Fáilte Ireland as you have included a copy of a post event report form.

The adjudicator would have liked to see some summation of the projects that had been done since last year's adjudication aside from the involvement in the Festival which of course is regarded as Heritage Festival of national significance.

Your plan for 2020 to 2022 is welcome and this will form the basis for scheduled works during this period and it will allow you to assess what is or is not beneficial to the village.

Your methods of communication are those that suit your needs and there is no point setting up of a dedicated Facebook page if it cannot be managed on a regular basis.

What's App groups have become popular in getting messages quickly to relevant people.

It's encouraging to see that younger younger generation are being encouraged to take care of the environment so well done to those that run the playschool.

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

Not much input in this category but the adjudicator went and did an objective assessment based on the guidelines of the competition.

Your attached plan from next year on will allow you to be able benchmark progress against agreed work items.

The significant structures document is an impressive list of protected structures under the required designation.

Has any other village your size such a complement of heritage buildings and the answer to that is highly unlikely.

The following is a number of observations made under this category during the walkabout.
The welcome information panel and that included photographs from the Heritage Festivals could form the basis of a tourist information flyer complete with map.
Do give it consideration and take steps to start the ball rolling.
The Finger post signs in the village were in perfect condition and are a great addition for visitors.
How did Cil Srianain become Jamestown I know the answer but these lovely sounding Irish names have been lost totally in translation?
The historical wall plaques are of very nice design with simple and short narrative aka Tur Ui Bheirn.
The village Pump at a section of the Town Wall built in 1622 was well presented,
The RC Church in the centre of the village is compact with the deregulator placed in prominent position.
Some fine private residences were presented to a very high standard one in particular which looked as if it was an old Garda or RIC Barracks.
The Abbey Grounds were well maintained as was the adjoining graveyard.
What evolved from your meetings with the Council Engineer on the state of the derelict house has any progress been made in relation to the derelict house at the bridge.
Also in that particular part of the village the gates and entrance into Jamestown House are in a poor state.
The road surfaces and footpaths within the village were in good condition and the village was free from unsightly overhead wires.
The ballad of the Fall of Jamestown Arch 1622 – 1973 by John O Dowd was photographed, to be studied at a later time.
Overall the standard was good.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Good use of public space was evident in the placing of planters at focal points of the village but some of the arrangements needed to be looked at as they were a little overgrown
The nice black name sign across from the Cottage Restaurant was complemented by an array of petunia but the adjudicator would recommend replacing the mesh box with a timber equivalent.
Colourful arrangements were placed at the archway that gives Jamestown its name.
The stone bed at the side of the church needs to be replenished with bedding plants rather than of the trailing variety.
The timber surround bed planting on the road in from Dromod near the bug hotel was a little haphazard.
I would recommend that you consider using timber half barrels, if the cost is not too prohibitive, for next year they would look more appealing in the centre of the village.
The community garden at the side of the Church was well presented and there was a great mix of shrubs on view
Well done also on the planting that has taken place around the bottle bank and the saplings planted will develop in time
That said the adjudicator feels that there is room for more planned development in this category especially in the area of public realm planting.
It's hard to know what to recommend when you are only in the village for a short period so here is my take on the matter
It's up to groups like the Tidy Towns Committee to sit down and assess what you think your needs are.
When you have a clear plan of action consult with the Horticultural Section of Leitrim Co Council for advice, direction and resource funding if it's there!

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 viable formats such as nature information panels
Good wildlife advice and the communication of the importance of local wildlife in a community are so important.
Being aware of invasive and possible destructive plants such as Japanese knot weed, is also essential.
Biodiversity as the name suggest is so diverse that it is important for any committee to evaluate its resources to see if they can manage projects that may come on board under this category.
I'm not going to repeat back to you all the ideas listed except to say that much of what you have mentioned relates to working closely with agencies but there is no ownership of specific wildlife project that can be attributed to the Tidy Towns
Get advice from the Biodiversity Officer or equivalent in Roscommon County Council to see how you can get ideas and keep in mind that you need to involve the school children
What are Green Flags for only to encourage children to get involved in projects that will benefit the school and community alike?
We await your comments in next year's entry form.

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

Without overtly preaching to the converted it is still important to outline the main objective in this category which is the reduction of the production of waste at source.
The projects that you are involved in are very much in keeping with the ethos of the category but more can be achieved by way of getting involved in more diverse projects that address energy saving, that encourages community composting training etc,
Again without being too repetitive with my mantra it is important to get school children involved in projects related to this category.

As I am on the subject of idea generation the following websites are useful for additional project ideas under this category www.localprevention.ie or the circular economy www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It was very hard to find fault with the village in the context of litter control or general tidiness. The committee has harnessed the goodwill of the local community as most at any rate are rowing in behind your efforts in this category. Well done on final getting to grips with the littering that was happening at the bottle bank and it's important that these people should be exposed by getting hit where it matters most. - Their pockets or purses. It goes without saying that you have a distinct advantage over many other places, some of similar size, in that you are off the beaten track. There is no point in repeating back to you what you have done except to say keep this type of sustained effort going. I would just repeat what last year's adjudicator that Jamestown is a village that is cared about and well looked after by its inhabitants. An increase in marks is justified.

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

Jamestown has some very fine private properties with excellent gardens and one or two have been mentioned in a previous section. Residents of the village have a definite handle on what Pride of Place really means. This year's adjudicator was also very impressed with the signage and the manner in which it was kept. The annual competition for the best home floral display certainly creates a healthy competition amongst the locals and this contributes to the well being of the village. Overall the standard was very good and home owners are to be credited for the efforts they have made to present their homesteads in the best manner possible.

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

The entrances in to the village from all locations were very acceptable. The entrance from your neighbouring village is enhanced by nice sign and planting arrangement and one noticed the reconstruction of a very fine establishment with impressive grounds. and the adjudicator has already mentioned the state of the entrance to Jamestown House. The Carrick on Shannon entrance has a nice sweep up into the village and was very well presented on the day. Litter control is as you say very good on all approach roads and despite being part of farming environment there was very little farm related residue on the roadside or at the kerbsides. Top marks to farmers for engaging with the committee in maintaining hedgerows and ditches to acceptable standards.

Concluding Remarks:

It has been quite some while since the adjudicator was in Jamestown as with by passes villages have been off the beaten track which is more the pity. The visit was a very pleasant and the adjudicator looks forward to learning John Dowd's ballad off by heart! You have the potential to achieve more in the competition and you are wished well for the future