

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullaghan - An Tulachán** Ref: **1523**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **249**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	60	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	28	29
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	21	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	31
TOTAL MARK	470	240	249

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo failte roimh Tullaghan (An Tulachan) chuig Comortas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2019.

Thank you for your very well written and informative entry form plus a copy of recent Tullaghan newsletter and some pictorial records of you web presence.

Unfortunately the map was missing and this must have happened inadvertently as there was indication that it was to be inserted at a certain point of the entry form.

No worries the adjudicator does what he always does when he is not familiar with a place get some local knowledge without giving anything away.

One has to be but impressed with level of support that you get for your work on behalf of the village from the local residents and the semi transient one as well.

You certainly have some interesting and fun like activities that help you raise funds for developments within the village.

Both your web presence and facebook platform gets your message to a much wider and diverse audience and this has been reflected in the numbers that visit both the website and your facebook page and who have got involved in various events that you have held over the last year.

The Newsletter is an excellent community publication that is certainly worth the 50 cents.

One notes that you gave a shout out to Marion Fitzgerald who no doubt gave you a plug on Highland and who has a connection to the Shannon Estuary Region.

In the body of the entry form there is a mention of a proposed 5 year development plan, the adjudicator was interested to know if it was a full Village Plan or a Tidy Towns Plan?

An update would be welcome for next year's competition and if the plan has been draw a copy of same would be appreciated.

Thank you for the endorsement of the competition and what winning the endeavour award meant to the local community situated on the shortest county coast line in the Island of Ireland.

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

When the adjudicator arrived in the village of Tullaghan he was exercised by two things one by the volume and the speed of the traffic that passes on the N15 and secondly by the amount of housing development that has taken place in this coastal village since the so called boom years.

One wasn't too convinced that this type of extensive development fitted into the fabric of a rural village.

But to be honest that's just a personal opinion and one would gather from your entry form that you as a committee have benefited as it brought a new audience for you to relay your message to.

Well done on the work that you do all year round in maintaining one of the focal points of the area and that is the

Community Centre.

The Centre was visited by the adjudicator who saw for himself the work that you had done to make sure that it and the surrounding area were presented in the best possible manner.

It is a great example of a well presented rural community centre with nice floral arrangements in front of the building. St Patricks RC Church across the road was in presentable condition but it would be enhanced even further if the building and the boundary wall were either power hosed or preferably re painted.

Easier said than done as no doubt the cost would be prohibitive if funds were not available.

The run down building near the Dew Drop Inn was noted during the walkabout and again you are to be congratulated on starting the work that hopefully will see that building, which is a bit of an eyesore, camouflaged and tidied up to an acceptable standard.

The Diamond Bar looked as if it was re painted, maybe to help attract a new owner as the for sale sign was very prominent on the wall.

What is the story with the Dew Drop Inn and The Atlantic Bar and Restaurant they looked as if they had been closed?

Is the Dragon Inn in the catchment area that is Tullaghan or in the Bundoran area?

You are wished well with the new project that is the Cross Field Project one that will need very in depth planning but that has great potential and offers the opportunity to do something really good for both the community and the transient visitors.

The area around it that contains concrete post and rail fencing looks a little forlorn and broken in places one would wish that this issue will be addressed in time when the proposed plan becomes an action reality.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have stated that the village planters are replanted each season and the adjudicator has to say that there were some very nice floral arrangements both permanent and in planter form to be seen in the village.

The Cross Field Project will have a large landscaping and tree planting element to it that will give the village a transformation and a new vibrancy.

The adjudicator noted a number of very well appointed that were filled with colourful annuals at the Diamond Bar, Celtic View boundary wall and at the L2059 Sign up to St Patricks Church.

Additional advice was given in last year's adjudication report but in fairness its best to wait until the development plan is agreed on and the planting element will be handled by a professional landscape designer in conjunction with the other stake holders including Tullaghan Development Company.

Well done in ensuring that the grass cutting was delayed to give a chance to the pollination process as well as the preservation of other species of wildlife.

You are probably one of the few committees to proactively monitor the growth of trees that were planted on both sides of the N15 and to remove protective tubes when the time was right.

Overall the standard was good and will no doubt be even better when the landscape element of the 5 year plan is implemented.

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.

The adjudicator is impressed with the number of simple projects that have been put in place since last year.

The delayed cutting of the grass was mentioned in the last section and of course this did help pollination.

Well done on seeking the advice of Biodiversity Ireland personnel to select the annual plants that offered more than the standard ones in encouraging the preservation of various forms of wildlife

A Bio Diversity survey could be considered under the new plan and it might be the catalyst for additional projects such as the production of information panels depicting the fauna and flora as well as the marine life that would be associated with the immediate area.

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

Doing more with less slogan will be seen more in the public domain over the few years as we come to grips with reducing our waste output.

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.

The practical benefits of good waste management and control of unnecessary production will be seen as a major contribution to a better environment.

The list of projects that you have entered in the application form are very much in keeping with the ethos of the sector but these could be expanded upon for next year.

Much of what you have included has been replicated in other centres around the country but the adjudicator notes that you have taken measures such as seaweed information that satisfy a need within your own community.

For further idea generation and to come up with some additional novel ideas for your community do consult the following: www.localprevention.ie for ideas would be www.greenhomes.ie and www.sustainableprocessing.ie

Also something that this adjudicator became aware lately 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:

The Facebook page of the Northwest Coastal Clean gives us some indication of the numbers that turned out to be part of the Coastal Cleanup day for Tullaghan.

It was a resounding success and part of the excellent work that the Tidy Towns Committee is facilitating.

As you rightly state events like this build up great community spirit.

You have worked hard to encourage local people to take it upon themselves to collect litter even when on leisure time.

Well done on this and rest assured that will become second nature to people in the village.

Good to report that you have taken steps to reduce the number of mini billboards that appear, especially at summertime, on roadside verges advertising fetes, tractor runs, festivals with Johnny Brady or Declan Nerney and other more unusual ones.

Mind you there was still one or two to be seen on the verge on the N15 near the core area of the village.

The broken rail fences have already been mentioned in a previous section but just to reiterate they do make that area look a bit untidy.

Well done to the CE workers for doing a very good job in trying to keep the village litter free.

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

There are a large number of housing estates in the immediate catchment area but as the adjudicator didn't have a map and some of the developments hadn't name stones meant that while most were visited some were not identified.

You have certainly requested through various event and forms of media that householders put their best feet forward and present respective homesteads in the best possible.

Seaview on the Bundoran side of the village

The housing development that is Celtic Cross View was in general very well presented with a few exceptions as is the case in most such developments.

Drowes Closes is a cluster of semi detached houses that are presented well and it has a large communal green that was rather bare and was in need of some beech saplings or the like.

Whilst escallonia hedging was planted at the boundary fence it looked as if there was only one solitary tree.

What looked like concrete manhole covers were also noted on this green!

The road stop sign referred to in last year's report is still not painted.

The committee should engage with Leitrim County Council to actually ask for a review of all the road markings in the village as many are faded.

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

The entrance from the Kinlough Road was acceptable with the road surface in good condition and signs visible as one approached the busy and well run Circle K service station.

There are a few small business premises at this junction as well that were well maintained.

Getting out of this junction on to the N15 can be a bit iffy as the traffic just rockets by and certainly doesn't slow down in accordance with the required speed level.

The entrance in the back road from Bundoran was pleasant as there is a nice view as the Drowes River meets the Atlantic.

The entrance from the south link road in by the community hall and church was excellent with dry stone wall, well maintained footpath and very pleasant blue light standards all the way in to the area around the Diamond Bar.

Across the road from the bar is a visitor information board of substance with the motto Explore, Experience and Enjoy.

The overall standard was very good and merits an increase in marks.

Concluding Remarks:

This was the first time that the adjudicator explored the 4km of Leitrim Coast and it was a pleasant experience.

The village has seen quite a lot change in the last 10/15 years as housing developments sprung up.

It is now at a stage that it needs a village renewal plan and that will take place in reality under the Cross Field Project.

Areas that need attention were mentioned in the relevant categories of this report.

The village has great potential to do really well in the competition and the committee is as progressive and proactive as one will see in any of the achieving centres around the country.

You are wished well for the future.