

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlingford - Cairlinn** Ref: **489**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **326**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	50	51
Streetscape & Public Places	60	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	39
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>326</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Carlingford - Cairlinn páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for your map, your application form and accompanying material. You have a good sized committee with 13 members and over with 30 volunteers. You meet twice a month you have a wide range of support from businesses, state agencies and local businesses. You have a monthly newsletter and communicate by email. Your Facebook page is very active and has a good range of information including biodiversity and sustainability posts, with over 1500 likes. You hold an annual general meeting. You involve the local schools in Spring Clean and beach clean but you don't have a junior tidy town. You could maybe start something informally when young children are helping with planting and ask them for their ideas and opinions. You may well be doing this already as you involve children in your activities. You have a good mix of events throughout the year. As a suggestion, please number projects straight through, don't restart at 1 in each category. This will be easier for your adjudicator to follow and find your projects on the ground and in your application form. Maybe also include a leader line/ arrow coming from the number to the exact location on the ground, on your map and include a list of the project title names in the key/legend.

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

Following your contact with the owners, Woods shop has been painted which is great to see. The disused Presbyterian Church in New Street is now on private ownership and the new owners have offered the building for community events which shows good community spirit. The period cottage adjacent to the old station Masters house has been restored and refurbished and looks very well. Ruby Ellen's tea rooms in Newry Street has a very bright and colourful expanded outdoors area with colourful murals. Well done to The Anchor Bar, Kingfisher Bistro, Mc Kevitts Village Hotel, Darcy's, The Carlingford Arms, Ruby Ellen's Tea Rooms, Ma Bakery and D Savage Butchers for their awards in Louth Looking Good. Well done also to St Albans Park for a win in best overall estate and Clos na Manach for first place of estates over 40 houses. The drainage detail of the cobble edge to the tarmac was interesting and added positively to the streetscape. I really liked the signage and treatment to the Carlingford Accommodation building. The bright red door and simple lettering caught the eye. There were also some very nicely detailed side gates which are a really positive addition to what sometimes is a negative. The side lanes linking down to the seafront are key to the character of your location. Some are well maintained and inviting, others less so. Try to contact owners and/or give them extra attention. You've also constructed of brick surround and planting area at the Old waterspout on the back lane and you painted the background a bright colour which really makes it stand out. Next time, try and use some older material and the pointing may need a small bit of extra attention. Well done on repainting information plaques on the heritage buildings. This really does make them more noticeable to visitors and more legible. You've also erected new heritage style name signs for residential areas such as Trinity Close, Abbey Court and St Olivers Park. The new street name signs in English and Irish will add to the existing

signs. Be sure to use a similar style throughout. The document on the rationalisation of finger post signs will also bare fruit as they get replaced. Your work on the community centre mural, must have taken quite a lot of time. You've also completed a lot of other projects including a new cycle stands and litter bins all of which have been noted as were your interesting murals on some of the older buildings in fake windows.

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

Well done on liaising with Louth county council on the repair work need to the village green wall at the narrow end of the village green. You have also planted 1000 daffodil bulbs which will add a lot of seasonal colour. Check out pollinator friendly bulbs at <http://pollinators.ie/> which may be added for early colour in the year. You maintain a great number of containers at key locations around your center which have a colourful mix of perennials and annuals. Some planting on the chainlink fence between the bus stop and coast guard cottages would help to soften the view. The newly planted apple trees will need to be kept weed free for at least 1m radius around the base. This will greatly improve growth rates and stop damage from strimmers and lawnmowers. The stakes on the apple trees are very long and may cause friction damage to the trees over time. The stakes only need to be at most 1m above the ground to support the tree in the early years.

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

You are raising awareness of local biodiversity with site specific information. You should mention in your application form that you are aware of the Special Protected Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Proposed Natural Heritage Area (PNHA) that are on your doorstep. You will find this information at <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>. That said you are obviously aware and taking action on the ground in changing how you are doing things for the enhancement of wildlife. Maybe consider changing the mowing regime in large grass areas so that the grass is not cut to the same length at the same time. Allow the grass to grow a little longer in places that are not heavily trafficked and this will add visual and wildlife benefits. You have also indicated that you are aware of the benefits of cutting down/eliminating/alternatives to herbicide usage which is also a step in the right direction. If you are carrying out any wildflower planting ensure to use Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) certified wildflower seeds as others may introduce species that have slightly different flowering times that DAFM certified seeds which can have undesirable knock on effects on insects and also may include species not readily found in Ireland that may out compete native varieties.

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

You are making good inroads in this category with all the projects mentioned. Great to see the interest in your reusable cups usage. The work on poster elimination, growing your own plants, takeaway packaging reduction, your Facebook campaigns, Trashion Fashion etc are all helping to change behaviour. A great source of inspiration is <https://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. What some groups also find beneficial is to break down this category into waste, water, energy and transport categories and to cover all 4 sub categories each year with new and continuing projects. Also keep an eye on the value of small interventions that many people can do to make a change (e.g. Stop Food Waste Challenge). Also keep track of the accumulative savings made over the years and keep your adjudicator informed. Consider putting Greener Cleaning/ Gardening (<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/wpp/>) and Luscious Leftovers ([www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)) links and ideas up on your Facebook page at regular intervals.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Carlingford was largely well presented on adjudication day despite it being very busy. Little litter was seen. Try to focus your attention on the less presentable "edges" e.g. chainlink/ palisade fencing, walls in need of repair etc. Identify any poor edges and look at what interventions could be carried out. You may not be able to do anything at the moment but opportunities may present themselves in the future. The flexible flaps on the bins are a great addition and will help litter being pulled out by crows/gulls. Congratulations to the local business and you on the Big Belly Bins. Hopefully in the years to come they will no longer be needed if the amount of waste can be reduced. The novelty penguin bins will also help to encourage children to use bins and are a fun way to get rid of litter. Well done on your work in the Spring and Beach Cleans.

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

The new estate signs are a welcome addition. You are carrying out a wide range of projects with a variety of estates and they all have Tidy Town focus. If you manage to persuade the management companies to alter the mowing practices please map the areas so your adjudicator gets a good idea on the extent covered. Well done to Clos na Manach on their win.

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

Well done on all your work on the approach roads. Be careful when removing ivy from walls as it is a valuable resource for pollinators but it can also do damage to the wall infrastructure as it get mature. There is a balance to be struck between the two. It struck this adjudicator that some of the approach roads are unnecessarily wide and this encourages faster vehicle speeds. It may be worth approaching your local authority and asking them to consider in the long term the narrowing of the carriage widths in line with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). This really is a long term project but should be considered in any resurfacing etc of the R176.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Carlingford is a very attractive village with considerable potential to do well in the competition. I hope you found my comments helpful and we wish you well in your endeavours for the year ahead.