

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Castledaly - Caisleán Uí Dhálaigh</b>	Ref: <b>221</b>
County: <b>Westmeath</b>	Mark: <b>288</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>28/06/2019</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	39	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	27	30
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	9	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>288</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Castledaly – Caisleán Uí Dhálaigh páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for this year's application in your 23rd year of participation with its beautifully illustrated and helpful map; the committee should now prepare a 'rolling' Three Year Tidy Towns Plan outlining what they would like to see achieved for the benefit of the community in the coming years. There is a healthy sized volunteer base and excellent support network; communications work through social media and traditional methods which ensures that Tidy Towns news and events have a greater chance of reaching all concerned. Your engagement to date with the school has been beneficial and we note plans to build on this with the construction of bird and bee boxes. The children are to be congratulated on their fine poster on the theme of Sustainability. It is great to know of the social benefit to the community of Tidy Towns.

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

The overall appearance of Castledaly is very good and the village has some nice features. The committee and other volunteers obviously work hard to maintain the village to a high standard. The 'Stop and Shop' premises together with its car park enjoy good maintenance and appearance. Fitzgerald's pub in the village centre which features a beer sign would be improved with an attractive fascia sign too; the road edge of its car parking area needs refurbishment. St Kierans Church and Kilcleagh National School are both nicely presented however, the roadside boundary walls could be improved a little. One of the two letters L in the name sign for the national school should be straightened. (Kilcleagh).

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

Castledaly's seated amenity area at the top of the Ballinahown Road features attractive flower displays and well-maintained shrubberies, the little wall inserts with their displays are a nice touch. In your landscaping activities ensure that planting is for year-round interest and colour and plant native where possible. There are some really nice grass margins and roadside areas to walls on the Athlone entrance. All planters appear to have been replanted appropriately with pollinators in mind. As there are very few green areas and the picnic site has been allowed to revert to a wildlife area consideration might be given to finding a site for the creation of one of the following; a Sensory Garden, a Community Fruit and Nut Orchard, a Community Herb Garden or other ensuring universal accessibility.

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

An information panel is suggested for the wildlife area beside the school. The predominant habitat type within

Castledaly appears to be woodland, this could be featured more as a highlight of the village with information panels based on a habitat survey. Your adjudicator appreciates the difficulty in engaging the professional services of an ecologist and the fact of private ownership of lands. A nature trail can be designed for public places; one committee designed a wildflower and poetry trail for children along a stretch of public road, another designed a wildflower leaflet and organised a children's wildflower spotter trail, perhaps something like this can be considered? There are some excellent publications on Irish wildflowers that can be used as a reference guide. The roadside treatment to the GAA clubhouse premises and grounds is excellent. Lots of pollinator patches at various points around the village and a Bug Hotel are noteworthy; to take this a step further visit <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/> Hopefully the new rockery in the graveyard will ease the wreath dumping problem. Benches in playground which have been recently painted look great, fundraising for maintenance costs is exemplary

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

Congratulations to the children and their teachers for the Green Flag status of the school. There are many excellent recycling initiatives ongoing in Castledaly and your decision to reuse old planters instead of replacing these with new ones is laudable. The use of old shipping pallets for the construction of planters to bird and bee boxes is certainly innovative and all the more so with the inclusion of the school children. Water harvesters at the Community Centre are favourably noted as an important resource management project as is the composting site. The recycling point behind the Community Hall/old National School enjoys good maintenance. Energy management could form the basis of projects for next year's competition; consideration might be given to the use of LED lighting in the Community Hall and households; a small number of householders could be involved initially as a pilot and results measured from a comparison with last year's bill. The focus for performance under this heading must be prevention at source in addition to reduce, reuse recycle.

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

Castledaly looked extremely clean and tidy on adjudication day, some construction work and related untidiness on the Ballinahown Road was noted but it is appreciated that this is a temporary situation. The area around the old petrol pumps / garage was much improved with the installation of container flower which distract the eye away from the untidiness. We note from your application that the Take Away premises located between Athlone and Moate is the major source of Castledaly's litter problem, with food wrapping discarded from passing vehicles; this is a difficult situation and one that is shared by many Tidy Towns groups; perhaps signage on the premises concerned might help or even on the food wrapping itself eventually. The litter picking groups are owed a debt of gratitude from the the local and wider community. no doubt litter collected is segregated for recycling.

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

Kilcleagh Park residential development looks beautiful with its mature trees and well-managed green open spaces, many gardens were admired for their attractiveness. Weather-stained roadside boundary walls can create a poor first impression of a centre especially when located on an approach road or at an entrance to a centre. Residents could be asked to make a note of the bird species that visit their gardens and the information featured on a display panel at an appropriate site within the village. Perhaps a small section of green area could be devoted to a Community Herb Garden or a small Sensory Garden. The commitment of Castledaly's householders to their village is obvious in the presentation of the village.

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

The new nameplates certainly add a colourful visual impact to entrances to Castledaly from approach roads; it is unusual that the Irish translation of the name is not included on the nameplate. Flower displays surrounding nameplates are a welcoming feature complemented by neatly presented grass verges some of which retain longer grass to their inside areas to provide a bee line or wildlife corridor. Rose displays on one entrance were charming. The school car park is nicely surfaced and lined and the car park at the graveyard needs resurfacing as do some stretches of footpath. Digital feedback signs for speeding traffic along the R444 is suggested as a road safety feature as through traffic did not slow down sufficiently for pedestrian safety. The installation of new signage including a finger post sign for the Community Centre is to be congratulated.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Castledaly is an attractive village with a vibrant community spirit which is almost palpable to the visitor; speeding traffic was an issue for your adjudicator at the time of the visit.