

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delgany - Deilgne** Ref: **249**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **298**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	44
Streetscape & Public Places	60	37	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	37	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	33	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	58	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	38	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	287	298

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Delgany - Deilgne páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for your comprehensive entry, complete with lots of extra information. Your entry form was clear and easy to read thanks to your using a different font colour for your answers – this was very helpful. The colour coding of project numbers on your map was also helpful. Well done on holding 21 community events since June 2018 – this must have taken huge efforts. You have a great committee of 12 people but would like to see more volunteers for various events. Being so active locally and holding all those events is bound to attract more volunteers so stick with it! You have a very impressive list of associated Agencies, Bodies and Businesses – this is ideal and hopefully is of great support to Delgany Tidy Towns. Well done on your Junior Tidy Towns initiative, teaming up with Greystones Tidy Towns to work with the eight local schools – this is a great idea to share the workload but it will reap great dividends both for the pupils and yourselves in the years to come. The Biodiversity Bites Event sounded wonderful and a fitting tribute for the home village of Ireland's very own biodiversity hero Éamon de Buítléir. You have a very comprehensive 3 Year Plan

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

Delgany is a village of terrific character, managing to hold its own as the ever-increasing Dublin commuter belt spreads and often smothers the individual characteristics of old villages and towns. There are many buildings of character with different examples of Irish vernacular architecture throughout the village. Make sure to use your influence to secure the conservation of these buildings as much as possible on into the future – a wonderful heritage for Delgany's junior residents. This includes the wonderful gardens and characterful garden walls of many of the older houses. The majority of the older village buildings were noted to be very well kept and painted. The Bear Paw deli looked very well on adjudication day. Your heritage sign looks great and serves as a very good introduction to Delgany village to the visitor. The new information box is also a good idea and we took a leaflet from the box which had plenty in it – a good sign of your maintenance work here as it can be so disappointing when such boxes are empty! The road and footpath surfaces were noted to be poor all around the village as is noted in your submission. We note that you are working with Wicklow County Council to remedy this – this is all you can do – keep communicating with your local authority! Future adjudicators will look forward to the outcome of Wicklow County Council's Part 8 Plan for Delgany – we await the plans for the village centre re-design with interest. The design and use of street furniture can make such a fundamental difference. The Delgany Heritage Trail looks very enticing and manages to include all Delgany's historical and architectural highlights. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time for your adjudicator to complete the trail during the visit but I will be back to complete it another time! A word of caution for your Fairy Trail plans, just to be careful not to nail anything to trees or shrubs or to paint any living trees or shrubs. This has been seen on Fairy Trails in other towns and villages and both practices damage and can sometimes lead to the death of trees and shrubs. Well done on your liaising with Kilcoole on maintaining the Mass

Path – these unsung aspects of Irish heritage are rightfully gaining more prominence as communities reclaim them leading to beautiful, peaceful corridors adding so much to the quality of life for all – completely in tune with what the Tidy Towns movement is all about! Make sure to use the advice of your birdwatch Ireland neighbours in Kilcoole and only cut and clear vegetation outside of the bird nesting season i.e. NOT from February to August inclusive! Also note that flowering and fruiting (great for wildlife as well as looking pretty) of our native hedgerows is encouraged with a trim once every three years – try not to trim more frequently than that if at all possible.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The wooden planter boxes all around the village looked very well, however I was disappointed to see that none of the plants in the planters were pollinator-friendly. Please refer to the 'Pollinator Planting Code' document freely available at www.pollinators.ie/resources for a very helpful and extensive list of plants that will help our beleaguered pollinator species: the bumblebees, solitary bees, hoverflies, moths and butterflies. The herb planter outside the Bear Paw Deli was noted. This is a great idea – complimenting the deli and serving the community. The only drawback is that two of the planters are quite small! Did you know that most herbs are pollinator-friendly as well as being perennials. This means you save money in the long-run by just planting the once for years of colourful, tasty herbs and happy pollinators! Have you thought of planting colourful herbs such as rosemary, chives, thyme, sage and trailing nasturtiums in your planter boxes around the village? Unfortunately, no planter was outside the Old Rectory on adjudication day and indeed the area was noted as a prime area for a planter so we look forward to this project working out for you in future. The village pump looked great particularly with the white painted wall behind it setting it off very nicely.

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

Delgany Old Burial Ground is an entrancing spot – what a treasure to have right in the centre of your village! The entrance was beautifully-rich with wildflowers on adjudication day. Your wildflower friendly cutting regime was clearly working as many bumble bees were seen feeding on the red valerian flowers. This area is truly a peaceful oasis in the middle of the village. The paths carefully mown through the graveyard are very attractive to the visitor enticing them in to explore. Try to keep some patches of nettles in parts of the graveyard where people don't walk. It was noted during the visit that they had been recently mown and this is unfortunate in June as it is prime time for butterfly caterpillars - nettles are necessary food for six different species of Irish butterfly! Also the bird boxes were noted but unfortunately they seem to have been nailed into the trees – as mentioned above, this is not good practice as nails damage trees by leaving them open to infection. Well done on your survey of the village for biodiversity areas – this is a very pro-active approach. You will already have seen how something as simple as changing your mowing regime can result in more wildflowers with the Old Burial Ground. In many spots this will be all that is necessary for wildflower meadow creation. No seeds will need to be sown in most areas – simply manage grassy areas as a hay meadow, leaving the first cut until early July, lifting the mowings and a final cut in September. After a couple of years you will be pleasantly surprised at the display of wildflowers and indeed pretty grass flowerheads that will grow. It is in fact less work for Delgany Tidy Towns and admittedly for some people it will take some getting used to but it is universally acknowledged that we need to change our perception of what is 'tidy' as our habitat clearing habits up till now have caused severe declines in our local biodiversity. The poster template available on www.pollinators.ie/resources can be very helpful in informing people that these areas are being managed for wildlife and not being left untended. Well done on all your biodiversity events throughout the year – raising awareness is hugely beneficial for local biodiversity. Looking forward to seeing lots more pollinator-friendly herbaceous perennial planting around Delgany in the future!

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

This is another category where you have done lots to raise awareness locally and also liaised with other groups such as Greystones Tidy Towns – well done on this as there are so many good ideas worth sharing. The Pumpkin rescue recipes were eye-catching as well as thought-provoking – maybe this could become an annual feature focussing on a different fruit or vegetable each year? The Mini Free library is a favourite community project of this bookworm adjudicator – we look forward to this project coming to fruition in future competitions. Gifting the children who took part in your Big Spring Clean with reusable water bottles is a great idea and would be very much complimented by a Delgany Water refill station – these are badly needed all over Ireland as refillable bottles are useless without a drinking water tap which is hard to find when travelling around and visiting towns and villages around Ireland. Well done to local schools on the Walk on Wednesday programmes and particularly great to hear one school has extended it to Friday too!

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Delgany Tidy Towns is very active in this category with lots going on – particularly liaising with Wicklow County Council on several issues. Well done on your clean-ups, very little litter was seen on adjudication day. The 2 Minute Street Clean board was noted on Delgany's main street. This is a worthwhile project to be involved in and will be interesting to hear how it develops for Delgany – it hopefully will cultivate new habits and help lessen the workload for Delgany Tidy Towns into the future!

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

Housing estates were noted to be very well presented with lots of care taken. It was noticed that some of the estates had good signs that were getting a bit tattered and needed a new coat of paint. The Bug hotel in Priory Rise is in a good position to highlight biodiversity to residents. Convent Court was visited but the Lane to Delgany Wood Avenue was not notably 'wild' on adjudication day! However, it was noted that grass was left to grow at the base of

hedges and this is great for bumblebee habitats.

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

Delgany is situated within close distance of several different localities so there is a need for the approach roads to the village to be clearly marked with good signs. We look forward to the fruition of the Village Accessibility and Part 8 Project in the coming years. All approach roads were free of litter on adjudication day - well done on all your hard work here - it cannot be easy having to deal with a road that comes straight off the busy N11.

Concluding Remarks:

A visit to Delgany is always a pleasure, the village nestled into its picturesque surroundings is a gem that deserves the great care that Delgany Tidy Towns are giving it. Keep up your great work!