

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinahely - Tigh na hÉille** Ref: **245**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **292**
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44	45
Streetscape & Public Places	60	40	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	34	35
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	470	284	292

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Tinahely - Tigh na hÉille páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Welcome Tinahely and thank you for your entry form and helpful photographs, maps and walks information. You have a good number of volunteers and lots of support from local businesses and public bodies. We always encourage projects that involve local schools as these contain the Tidy Towns members of the future! With three local schools there is lots of scope for projects of benefit both to the schools and to Tinahely Tidy Towns.

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

Tinahely has a beautiful streetscape nestled as it is into the south Wicklow hills. It features many buildings of lovely vernacular character and many are well maintained. Keep up your efforts to work with the owners of properties that need more help. Have you availed of any of the schemes where painting of derelict buildings is sponsored? Perhaps the Environmental Awareness office of Wicklow Co. Co. can help you with this as there a few houses in the town centre that could look so much better. The central diamond area is a great feature. The old market house is such an eye catching building it is a shame that there seems to be discoloration on the plaster work. The granite details are beautiful but the plaster work needs a lift - maybe a shade of light dusky pink like in its image on the map board?! Heading out the Ballinglen road, the Mens Shed premises look great, full of character. The green name plaques on the various roads around the town are a really nice, local touch. Some, however, are looking a little tired and may need a lick of paint. It is great to see these local names in both English and Irish being preserved and shared with younger generations and Tinahely's new residents.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Well done on your work at the Shrubwell and Hacketstown Road flowerbeds, they looked well on adjudication day. Both are important spots marking two of the entrances to the town. Unfortunately, most of the plants (begonias, pelargoniums, lobelias and petunias) in the tubs on the main square are annuals and not pollinator-friendly. Make sure to refer to the very helpful 'Pollinator Planting Code' (free to download at www.pollinators.ie/resources) when choosing plants for public areas as our poor pollinators need as many flowers as they can get – many are currently dying of hunger because we have been planting flowers that either have no pollen (most annuals) or else have flowers so showy with their double flowers (e.g. begonias, petunias, lots of roses) that the insects can't physically access the pollen! The Pollinator Planting Code will give you many planting options with perennial plants that only need planting once and give colour for months and months each year as well as provide food for our all-important pollinators! The main square tubs could be planted with hardy Geraniums of various hues, Pelargoniums, Hellebores, Astringias, Achilleas, Alchemillas, Sedums and daisies for colour from January to November every year

as well as lots of pollen for hungry pollinators. Some of the fruit trees at the Lugduff corner seem to be unhappy with at least one needing replacing. Having fruit trees in a public area like this is a lovely idea and it would be a shame for this little orchard area not to develop properly. A visit to the railway car park found all the ground underneath the signs and the edging trees had been sprayed with herbicide as no ground cover plants were growing there. This is unnecessary as the trees here are now well established and no longer need to have weed clearance at their bases. All public green areas can be seen as potential pollinator-friendly places where grasses and wildflowers can be encouraged and not sprayed!

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

Great to hear that one of your committee members has organised events to help promote biodiversity awareness in Tinahely, unfortunately the list didn't arrive with your entry form but send details next year. There's always lots to do and so many of these events can be turned into great community events by combining batwalks and barbeques and nature walks and picnics etc. As stated above, Tidy Towns groups have a huge role to play in helping to stem the decimation of our pollinator species Ireland through pollinator-friendly planting, less regular mowing of green areas, no herbicide use and leaving grass verges at the bases of hedges and walls for nesting pollinator habitats.

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

Thank you for your spreadsheet detailing the amount of material collected for recycling. It offers lots of food for thought! Well done to Tinahely and Kilcommon National Schools for their Walk On Wednesdays project. Good luck with your participation in the forthcoming European Week for Waste Reduction events in November – make sure to detail your activities for next year's adjudicator.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Everywhere visited in Tinahely on adjudication day was litter free so well done on this achievement which can't be easy in a small town that is always busy. Well done on all your hard work here – it is clear that the Tinahely community is working hard together and winning the battle against litter!

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

Tinahely has several different residential areas between the town centre, housing estates and the more rural edges. All looked well on adjudication day. A future project working on a strong network between Tinahely Tidy Towns and the various residents' associations is definitely worth pursuing. Have you thought of running a Tidy Towns competition for the various estates with awards for best garden, best biodiversity project etc. as suggested by last year's adjudicator? These have really forged strong community relations in other towns and villages.

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

The Shillelagh road could benefit from a tidying mow along the left side opposite the houses. Just one mowers width, giving a neat impression whilst still being of biodiversity benefit as it leaves the grassy verge at the base of the hedge. Well done on your hard work cleaning the road signs – a thankless task maybe but worth the effort.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator always enjoys visiting beautiful Tinahely. Keep up your great work here making your lovely town an even better place to live and work for resident and visitor alike.