

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oranmore** Ref: **204**
County: **Galway** Mark: **277**
Category: **E** Date(s): **12/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	28
TOTAL MARK	450	271	277

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project. Well done for sorting out the population question. The category is indeed important. It is acknowledged that yours is a new committee and we do appreciate the time and trouble you take to enter Tidy Towns. You have done a power of work on your entry this year and you are well deserving of the additional points here. Thank you for the huge map. As you point out - it is far too unwieldy for use by the adjudicator but really useful for you to have on planning your work and projects. So, the adjudicator has neatly folded this and put it back into the burgeoning folder from whence it came. Word of caution here: please don't go for quantity on your entry form and additional materials. The danger with submitting so much material is that the really important stuff can get overlooked among old or irrelevant reports or cuttings. As adjudicators we really want to see the work you've done in the best context. Your entry form itself, by the way, was perfectly pitched and sized.

You have though, given us a good insight into yourselves as a group and what makes you tick. You are utilising good connections and your membership of the PPN is just one example of this. Your contact with schools appears to be exemplary. Well done.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thóghtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

While working away of 'small-scale' (no diminution is intended) such as the benches and finger sign post, you are also inputting into the bigger-scale items including traffic solutions, and streetscape. Excellent. Doubtless you will have much to report in coming years. The wildlife signage is more suitably reported in the Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities category of this competition.

Your library is only gorgeous and was very much in use on day of visit. A little bit more effort in planting here would help, it is felt. Keane's Pub and its lovely murals were admired. It was good to see the SVP shop in such well-chosen colours. However, the grass at the front here is in need of cutting. The Bank of Ireland could do with a bit of painting at the front. The Coach HSe Hotel looked very well and very busy. The Santoor Restaurant looked very neat indeed. Wolf and West is an example of a very modern building that looks really well in the Oranmore streetscape. Flower Haven and Mac Donagles were beautifully presented. Armorica looked really well too.

Amor vincit Omnia at Scoil Iosa Naofa and does so in great colours. The Roman Catholic church looked sharp in the sunshine and its green areas well kept.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well done on the Daffodil Dell Community Project. The adjudicator decided to cycle out to Rinville Park and check out the Operation Orchid site. Wow - what a great project. Well done to all involved. It's great to see co-operation between conservation groups and construction project. The sign was seen - good job. The park is just gorgeous and was very busy too! The wooden box planters in front of the library look very well.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

A really good entry here by Oranmore. You have included pollinators, wildflowers, your resident swans and living graveyards! You have quite rightly name checked the designations of the protected site that adjoins much of your area of operation. Very good. Continue getting good advice for your projects. Your new signage at the salt marsh area looks excellent. And well-informed.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

Another good entry here and your motto is a good one to go by. You have an interest in transport as local traffic would demand. As a Tidy Towns group, you now have a strong voice when it comes to lobbying for better and greener transport facilities. When there are cycle lanes and Greenways needed, Tidy Towns groups have always led the way in Ireland. Make your voice heard. You still have much that you could be doing in this category, it is felt. This will surely come in time. The Tidy Towns Unit sent out a guidance document on this category two years ago. It is available from www.tidytowns.ie if you didn't yet see it. This has literally dozens of project ideas which won't leave you short of things to do to manage waste and save resources.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhairleacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Again - good entry. Factual and no-nonsense, you tell us about your Spring Clean and Beach Clean-up. Excellent. That's a really low graffiti rate. Go on - enter the bottle bank award again as soon as you feel it's good enough. The benches in front of the library were in need of a little TLC. Commercial signage is a problem for Oranmore. There are too many and too many different styles for it to look tidy.

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

The new footpath project will indeed be of huge benefit. The new benches are another great asset, especially for those of advanced years. You should tell us next year about how you interact with the residents' groups in the many estates in Oranmore. We'd need to know these kind of details for your points to increase here. The work on the derelict houses opposite Flower Haven was noted. There is more to do though.

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

A solid entry here that summarises lots of work in progress and some completed. There is a little overlap with other areas (e.g. on new footpaths) but this is natural. Well done (again) on the map - a great resource to have.

Watch out for vegetation obscuring your name stones. The adjudicator was on a bike and was disappointed by the lack of dedicated cycle lanes or bicycle warning signage. There were several bicycle racks though.

Concluding Remarks:

A good entry this year overall. Thanks so much for presenting this to us so well. You are wished every success as you grow into the competition.