

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Murroe** Ref: **464**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **286**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **12/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	43	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>286</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Céad faillte roimh Murroe TidyTowns Committee chuig Chomórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu don bhliain 2017. Thank you for your submission which included the entry form, your Action Plan, some supplementary material and your map which proved to be most helpful. You have now been involved for many years so it is great to read that 'to be sure our community has benefitted' from that involvement. You are quite modest in your assessment of the contribution your group has been making to the betterment of Murroe and that is a likeable trait. It is good to read that the tiny steps of progress lead to a deeper sense of community and community pride. It is obvious that you are highly regarded among the business community and among the bodies that can make a difference to the quality of life of those who live in Murroe.

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

Had never been to Murroe before so you can imagine the shock I got when I arrived at the monument, and what a wonderful centrepiece. That, Glenstal Abbey and its accompanying buildings and your Church, are the proudest buildings in the village. And all are elements of the built environment that you can be proud of as a community. Your school is another gem and the adjudicator enthused over the artistic impressions of Murroe live on the walls. Beautiful. You mentioned the old Post Office but I could not distinguish which of the buildings it was from your map. But the modern Post Office has a buzz to it that I liked. That contribution from the former proprietors was generous indeed and shows the esteem in which you are regarded in your community. Both of the pubs are well presented also and must have drawing power judging by their appearance. I loved the thatch, even if I could not make head nor tail of it, but most likely a smoking room. The unusual design of the Muintir Na Tíre building is eye catching, its history a major element of your local lore. The Credit Union is also admired.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Estates visited have landmark shrubberies and add no end to the appearance of their surroundings and to the attraction of those estates. Some creative genius has created something beautiful with old tyres and plants along a wall near Ros Fearná, divine. There are so many fine examples of your handiwork but I must mention the work at the Five Roads junction which I would never have got to were it not for its inclusion on your map. Then there are the floral decorations at the Village Inn and along the front of the Church. All reminding us of the season of the year. Your park and playground are fabulous amenities. The butterflies and stuff on the playground wall sync beautifully with the real action. I loved the treatment of the village pump. The next observation could be made also in the tidiness section. It refers to the treatment of the remnants of an old building at a corner with wall painted, hanging baskets, grass mown to create a glory out of what could be a derelict site. Well done. Continue your good work with the field project. You are being advised by informed sources and been driven by a desire to improve further the

healthy possibilities for the local people and for the local biodiversity. Your concern for tree planting is lauded.

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

This section of your submission seems to lack the energy of other categories of the competition which is a pity because much of the work you do and plan for in landscaping promotes the forage and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies. A sign for a Wildlife Area was spotted on the way into the Abbey. So be aware that much is happening as a result of your efforts. That said your 3 Year Action Plan is a worry. There is nothing definite to chew on. So what is the story with the wildlife survey? And the ponds in the Abbey sound like pie in the sky. Even if you mentioned the pollinator plan for your landscaping it would show how your thinking was developing. What about getting the wildlife enthusiast into your planning department. There are so many fine trees in the grounds of the Abbey which could entertain an enthusiast all year round. I came on a sign for a Looped Walk. This must have wildlife connections. Why was it not on your map as a must visit for the adjudicator? On the road from the Five Roads junction I am almost certain that there is some Japanese Knotweed. You may be disappointed with the mark reduction. I felt the previous adjudicator was that bit generous.

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

Do not despair. The rest of the country is finding it a struggle to come to terms with the demands of the sustainable living idea. You have come a long way with your awareness of the need for management of our waste and our energy resources. You are composting. You are conserving water. Your school has a green flag as well as a blue one waving away proudly like this is Croke Park and that flag represents a lot about the curriculum and the priorities of the staff in your school. So well done to all involved. But all of this sermonising is of little value. Contact the EAO in Limerick County Council after your next committee meeting and discuss your wildlife and your waste management worries with that person.

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

This category has been kinder to you in recent years and that is probably because you understand what is involved in it. Your group can relate to the tangible and tidiness is tangible. You have your litter picking time table. You were out on Good Friday. You put up posters and wash the paths. Great. I promise not to mention underground cabling. Your village presents itself proudly and brightly. An adjudicator cannot see what improvements have been made during the year but can say that buildings seem freshly painted, an example is that long stretch of yellow wall which has been given priority despite limited resources or the fresh black and white paint on the kerbing of the Monument, so important for the traffic. There is another example of this paint at the shrubbery at the Five Roads. The gate with the horse shoe design is a delight. The railings at the Church could do with some attention as could the gable of the GAA clubhouse. The forge is worth minding with immediate attention needed for its doors. A wooden main gate and a pedestrian wooden gate beside it are in need of a touch of black stain. Make sure that road signs are not allowed look shabby. There is some litter, the commercial area of Garranbawn being the major black spot.

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

It is a great start to read that the estates have organised themselves with their own estate association. It is a symptom of a strong community bond. All of the estates were visited. Open space is amply provided for in most cases with beautiful shrubberies a feature in most of those estates. The adjudicator feels that house dwellers in the estates should be encouraged to plant more shrubs or flowers or hanging baskets as some have done here and there. The commercial area in Garranbawn seems to be struggling with its identity as yet. There are a couple of estates that could do with your encouragement. Abbeyowney is distinguished by that fine piece of, to me, abstract sculpture. Lovely. There is a wall in Ros Fearná that would benefit from ivy and or pyracantha planting. Let them see what has been done with a wall in Cois na Coille or a wall in Gilmartin Park that has roses growing up along it. Main Street is also quite residential with many of the residences contributing, an echo from earlier house building design. Once off housing all along the approach roads is very well presented and enhance their surroundings.

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

Try to arrive into Murroe from the Five Roads side where you will be treated to a landscaping delight. Where there are houses the surroundings are well presented. But one felt that roadsides could be given more attention as a narrow mown verge helps define an area and create a village identity.

### **Concluding Remarks:**