

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Beaufort** Ref: **2039**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **291**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>291</b>

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

Na fáiltí geala roimh Beaufort TidyTowns go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. What an amount of stimulating and relevant material you packed into one manageable folder. Well done. Firstly 47 members on committee, each subdivided into working subcommittees, means that every one on committee is also hands-on. But 47 is an achievement in itself. I am exhausted already and I am still at page 2. What is obvious is that you are a driven group of people, your committee is an open door to the willing, that you are conscious of new residents to the area, that you know the strings that must be pulled in order to achieve your goals, that you keep your committee updated on all of your activities, that you stimulate interest in the pupils of the school by making TidyTowns a fun movement. What really impresses is that you had the clout to get all of that funding for your Garda Station projects. Note that the amount was not mentioned in case there would be uproar among other groups. You have learned quickly as a group but do not burn yourselves out because TidyTowns is a lifelong commitment! But already you see your idealism being transformed into tangible, positive results as in the bridge or the beehives and also being transformed into spiritual results in the uplifting of your committee. Gura fada buan sibh.

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

It took the adjudicator some time to decide if there is a village centre in Beaufort despite the fabulous map that was included. What is certain is that the wonderful walls that accompany one around the Beaufort area are a central part of the built environment. You mention the old estate walls which create a sense of antiquity throughout the area and you are obviously aware of their key heritage value to Beaufort. In general these walls are in a fine state of repair as are their newer companions, for example at the Spideog Bridge, but their value to the personality of Beaufort cannot be overstressed. The one element of the built environment that disappointed was the appearance of the grotto. Yes its pillars and rails are strikingly painted but there is a noticeable absence of colour which could be introduced with perennial or annual planting. Public buildings are well presented and maintained. When the adjudicator left the Orchard and saw the treatment of the Beaufort Bar and then saw the Bring Centre he was certain that this must be the village centre. The memory stone for Parnell and the Ogham stones added to the estate walls show that this rural setting has a history that is being taught in a gentle manner. The memory of the blacksmith is honoured with the treatment of the forge and anvil. This adjudicator would never have found the Church, most likely, were it not for the new signs. One would certainly not have found the fine school buildings and environs were it not for the map. The abstract sculpture is a lovely feature of the appearance of the school, reflecting for the adjudicator the ogham stones seen earlier. In making entries for next year's submission try to fill the respective sections with the relevant material. Most of the material under built environment is relevant to landscaping, wildlife, sustainability.

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

One marvels at the tree growth from the moment of arrival. The influence of the old estate can be felt straight away. But you too are adding to that colour. The Church is a case in point. Your most recent piece of landscaping creativity is also an example of how you are impacting on the landscaped appearance of the village. The adjudicator loves the manner in which entrances to estates are treated. Your photo shows the treatment of a tree on the way into Tomies and the photo does not lie. Your tree trail is an innovative project which must be of interest to the whole community and is also a genuine wildlife project. The adjudicator loved the design and appearance of the little information plates for themselves and was pleased to find most of the trees. But the immediate delight after one crossed the bridge conditioned one to expect a wonderful ride around Beaufort. And the 50 limit had not yet been passed. There are some lovely raised beds here and there, full of colour. In general while the landscaping is beautiful you do not overdo it and that restraint is commendable in this sylvan setting. One noticed that tree planting has been ongoing. The newish oaks a special delight.

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

Much of the material related to wildlife activities was misplaced in your submission under the built environment. The danger with such a mismatch is that the adjudicator might miss some entry of significance. Your major project is the wonderful work that you have undertaken at the barracks, the community garden. This project embraces not only the wildlife section but also the landscaping and sustainable living section of the competition also. Your objective to have all year round colour in what could be a strip of waste ground also fulfils your wish to cater for the birds, bees and butterflies through the four seasons. What makes the bee attracting plants more meaningful is the presence of a group of beekeepers in the village. The adjudicator is delighted that these beekeepers have introduced the world of beekeeping to the school children. Well done all round. Your community garden is now an amenity area as important as a playground for children, it is a playground for a much wider age range. As this area develops one expects that your mark will develop also. Well done also on the bird boxes and the tree trail. This year's adjudicator was not as fortunate as last year's in seeing the eagle.

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

Well done on the many projects you have up and running at present. In general the projects you have undertaken are worthwhile resource management projects. While other projects might be more suited to other sections of the competition, as in the bug hotel. As a bee keeper the adjudicator is thrilled that you emphasise the vital role of the bees in our eco system. But much of the material you describe as projects in this section are also at home in the landscaping section, landscaping that is connected to the welfare of the environment. It is great that you are aware of the relevance of the water butt, the wormery, the polytunnel, the apple tree planting to the management of our resources and that all of these are now resource management activities in the village. The adjudicator feels that an information evening or course serves its purpose when there is an impact on the planning and work of the group as a result. The composting workshop had that effect in the creation of the wormery. But your submission is not the forum for a lecture on wormeries. There is so much information in your submission that the adjudicator may have missed a reference to the school and Green Flag. There is reference to the school and the Green Flag programme in last year's report.

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

The walls in Beaufort provide clear definition to roadsides. Then along other stretches the management of the grassed verges provides definition for those areas. While the adjudicator feels that it would not be good practice to manicure all of the wild ditches in the area in his opinion the base of walls does need strimming or mowing to maintain the appearance of the stone wall and to create the impression of order. The car park at the school could look better with a bit more maintenance also. Mown grass in an estate should be deposited in the composter. Get Galvins to paint the half barrels. Either paint the yellow wall or powerhose it. Do not think that it is being proposed that all grass verges should be managed. No, where there is not wall but a ditch allow the natural vegetation expression. Your submission concentrates almost wholly on litter awareness and litter control and says very little of your tidiness activities. For instance, who painted the road signs and has them gleaming? That is a tidiness issue that is worth making the adjudicator aware of. 70 miles of litter picking! My God but signs on the results are obvious. There is very little litter to be seen. The walkers must be alert to the droppers from passing traffic. Well done.

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

The numbers of residents who have made Beaufort home in the past twenty years is reflected in the design and size of the beautiful houses that adorn the roads of Beaufort. The older residents are also nobly mentioned as their houses still shine. One notices that there are very few vacant dwellings. The bungalow era is well represented and then came the more spacious homes of recent years. Each estate is delightfully presented. Every estate was visited. All have their own stamp, all seem like ideal settings for a home. Landscaping, care, design combine to create this sense. One loved the idea of the apple trees at the entrance to one estate. The wild flower area or uncut grass on a bank in another estate is good practice for wildlife promotion. The road surface of another estate needs attention. Boulders are a lovely feature in the open space of another estate. Reading your submission gives one a flavour of the support the residential areas get from the local residents. Long may that continue.

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

What an introduction to your area and village is the appearance and treatment of the bridge. This is a 'wake up and pay attention' moment. Then the house sets the tone for the rest of the visit. Lios an Phúca. What a name full of

mythological charm. The welcome or fáilte adds to the spectacular start. Then the walls and the trees steer us around. All of the roads could be termed approach roads as they lead from one centre of activity to another. So make sure to mow just one width of the lawn mower along these roads wherever possible. That will help to create a stronger sense of village definition.

**Concluding Remarks:**

The enthusiasm for Beaufort that was expressed throughout the submission is being translated into positive action on the ground in this lovely rural village. It is easy to see what your pride and joy is at the present and one looks forward to a future in the village when the community garden will be a Pandora's box of village pride with worms having free rein in the compost heaps until gobbled up by a passing birdie. It will be a retreat for the adults and a curiosity box for the young ones.