

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cahersiveen** Ref: **327**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **270**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **15/07/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>270</b>

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

Congratulations to Cahersiveen TidyTowns for entering the 2015 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. The adjudicator hopes that your participation in this year's competition will assist you with your work and help you bring your plans to fruition. Thank you for the completed entry form, the map showing the projects you have recently undertaken, the supplementary material that illustrated very effectively the work that has been undertaken in the past year. The impression one gets is that this TidyTowns committee is an up and at it group of people, and well done for that. An inclusion in your submission that caught the eye was the numbers of young people involved in a 'People to People' Community service work and the meaningful inclusion of the American students. The adjudicator liked the acknowledgement of the four agencies you mentioned and your obvious gratitude to the people involved. Well done. The role that one of your committee plays in engaging with the schools seems to be effective in creating awareness of what TidyTowns means to a town. What is notable is that involvement with the schools is not confined to the primary school kids but extends to the transition year programme. It is obvious that a number of generations of Cahersiveen people have been involved with TidyTowns so TidyTowns is now embedded in the town psyche. You, as the present bearers of the torch, can be proud of your contribution. The adjudicator will do his best to cheer ye up with the few extra marks! Deserved, of course. The adjudicator is cheered up by the most helpful map that you included: easy to follow with streets named, your major projects numbered and clearly positioned. Thank you.

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

It is obvious that the overriding concern of your group is the matter of vacant premises throughout the town. You are complimented on your continuing efforts in this regards. It is gratifying to read that the number of unoccupied buildings is reducing. But it is obvious that the problem is still severe. As one wanders through the streets one observes the remedial action you have take but one is saddened that there are so many fine buildings deteriorating. This situation is not just a blight on the appearance of the streets but a blow to community morale. So you are encouraged to continue with your efforts. Your stand-out buildings are still a joy to behold and your obvious pride in the Old Barracks prompted the adjudicator to visit. Thank you for that prompting. The O Connell figure is a theme that binds many elements of the town from landscaping at the entrance to Cahersiveen to the exhibition at the Barracks to the street name. Great credit is due to those whose vision has created a meaningful, modern and exciting usage for the barracks and the Church of Ireland on the street. But apart from the iconic buildings like the Church and the Barracks there are wonderful modern buildings in the town. For instance, a school building on the Waterville road with both a Green and Blue Flag or the building housing the Legal Aid Board. While the new Garda Station cannot match its predecessor from long ago it has an attractive modern flair to it. The Post Office and its environs are a further delight. Good that you mention work that has been done, like the removal of phone booths. The adjudicator loved the brightness of the art at Cúnamh House. The building that is home to Tile Art shows how a

simple building can exude confidence. Street signage like the Páirc an Aonaigh and Barr na Sráide have a delightful traditional ring to them. It must have been from here that Sigerson Clifford got his inspiration. Traditional features of the streetscape should be treasured no matter what happens to the premises in time. The lettering at O Neills or at O Connell or at Sheehans are examples as are the upper bay windows in a number of buildings, for example An Tigh Ghaelach. Then the modern colouring of some of Main Street is nicely coordinated. Well done on the wonderful murals that highlight your heritage.

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

There are some divine areas that are landscaped so that people can visit, can walk about in beautiful surroundings, the mountain like a brooding monster in one area, the woods adding shimmering sounds in another, can sit and relax on freshly painted benches and watch rivers flow gently along. One feels that the people of this town are privileged that they can enjoy such beauty. Well done to all involved in providing access to such surroundings. One hopes that your plans regarding fruit trees reach fruition. One comes across a delightful piece of informal planting from place to place as in planting on a wall near SuperValu, or on a raised bed at Mainistir na Croiche. In an area around Riverview one came on delightful formal planting with great use made of skilled wall building to create various levels of planting presentation. Shrubberies and seasonal colour complimenting each other to produce a little paradise of texture. The boat is another formal bed that has engaged workers for a while. The Fairgreen area is magical in its multi coloured suits and in the surrounding planting. Landscaping softens the impact of other larger buildings like at Fexco and St Anns Hospital. Well done on the flower stands which has been a major project for some TidyTowns groups in the past. Frankly the adjudicator is not sure if he likes them. The stands are so prominent that it is difficult for the flowers to have a maximum impact. Painting them would be costly and laborious, maintenance of the paint an annual torture. But if you like them then fine. The adjudicator could not find the wild flowers and eventually felt that they must be in that wild area behind the wall.

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

One becomes aware quickly that there has been a lot of research, time and work invested in this section. The information panels at the O Connell Park are full of information and beautifully presented. Some of them will soon need renewal. Otters were mentioned and again at the Mart. The adjudicator missed the walk at the Mart, possibly missed otters and seals but is confident that others have enjoyed the experience. What impresses is that opportunities have been created and are being created to provide access to your wildlife treasure store and to features of your heritage. Walks with Birdwatch are always full of interest in wonderful surroundings so well done on this initiative. The Japanese Knotweed is a serious pervasive problem. The adjudicator found infestations all over town and sometimes in beautiful places. You mention that that signs have been erected. During the visit the adjudicator was disappointed that he did not come across these as the public play a vital part in containing the problem. Gunnera is also an issue along the Top Road.

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

The adjudicator would have loved some photos that would reinforce the written word in this category. Very often it is difficult for the adjudicator to find evidence on the ground of awareness projects in the sustainability section so help out with the photos. The Facebook page told me very little either. While litter does not belong in this category it is praiseworthy that you have dedicated a committee member to work on litter and recycling. The work being done in bringing pupils to the recycling centre is an important awareness activity and also praiseworthy. Making use of the Kerry Environmental Area Officer reflects well on your attitude and on your attempts to raise awareness of sustainability issues in the town. The adjudicator delights in hearing and, of course, seeing a community garden. The fact that there are no food miles in providing vegetables is at the core of what this category demands. So where do you go from here? You are recycling, you are raising awareness, your community garden reduces packaging and uses local resources. You are rethinking a life in Cahersiveen without rampant commercialisation. The adjudicator would love to hear of reuse projects. Continue what you are doing but think also reuse. Good luck. Sorry, I forgot to pay tribute to the schools for their involvement in the Green Flag movement. Well done to all concerned. You pupils of Cahersiveen have an important role to play in educating your parents and grandparents in best practice in the use of our natural resources.

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

The approach roads create a sense of an ordered town by the appearance of the houses and the condition of the footpaths. There are some stretches of pathway and kerbing that need renewal but in general these are well maintained. In general road surfaces are fine too but Old Post Office Street is an exception. The only problem on the approach roads is the advertising. Keep an eye on this fly posting. Traffic in a town is a tidiness issue. The adjudicator spent a number of hours in the town and felt that the traffic flowed freely despite the fact that your main street has to accommodate so much Ring of Kerry traffic. But in one instance where a motorist had taken liberties with a yellow line it caused some frustration. Your traffic warden is the key to traffic flow. Parking opportunities seem to abound. The appearance of some buildings is a problem. There is no great need for the adjudicator to add to your headaches. 'Keep Cahersiveen Clean' is a constant reminder to us all. Those signs are attractive and well maintained. The adjudicator is impressed by your targeted programme of litter awareness and litter control in the town. Your approach covers all of the main curses that are headaches like gum, butts and fast food cartons. You will be pleased that the adjudicator found little litter but enough to be noticed.

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

The approach roads on the N70 show how the residential housing in Cahersiveen has developed over the decades.

Now these houses present a beautiful positive image of the town. One is pleased to read in the landscaping section of the cooperation between yourselves and residents of estates in landscaping. A trip along Páirc an Aonaigh shows that much of the earlier housing of the town survives and survives in good condition. The results are obvious as in many estates visited there is great care taken in providing seasonal colour and texture. There are a couple of estates that have tarmaced fronts to the houses. In those cases great attention needs to be given to the appearance and condition of open space and landscaping in the public realm. Particularly in the case of one of those estate the weeds are growing over the kerbing to add to the neglected impression. In a local authority estate there are beautifully presented homes while other homes look somewhat distressed and in need of support. The pedestrian access to Woodview is a wonderful facility.

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

Interest in Cahersiveen is created as soon as one hits the bridge. What a wonderful introduction to a town: delightful landscaping, a history lesson that makes a visit to the town more meaningful, a mini nature walk that is informative of the historical background of the town, that treats one to information on the wildlife of the area. Back in the car and the first houses on the trip towards town are little Chelseas in full bloom. That John's wort planting will bring colour to that ditch in time. Then the fine footpath steers one to the heart of the matter. The road from Waterville presents a busier vista with the residential predominating although one is prompted to stop immediately at that fine yellow building as one wonders what a meteorological observatory would be doing down in Cahersiveen. At both ends of the N70 one is treated to a piece of abstract sculpture, one piece explained in the O Connell Park, lovely. The road leading from the stone fort is a wilderness grown out of the natural vegetation though interrupted by lovely housing and your sport and leisure facility and the cemetery wall which looks very well. Reenrusheen Road could benefit from your attention. Back areas of the town provide many challenges but there are elements that can be improved like landscaped beds in a car park at Gala whereas other areas are a joy. The town car park is a wonder where the built history of the old town is imprinted on the stone walls that surround one. And well done to the Mens Shed for providing attractive floral display containers which define the area of the Bring Centre. The adjudicator regretted walking down the lane that led down from the Courthouse as he came on a lot of untidiness and the greatest amount of litter witnessed during the visit.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Cathair na gConall shows that this town is not just steeped in nineteenth century but is steeped in pre history. This settlement has had to handle many problems over the centuries. This phase in the history of the town presents you and the agencies that promote the quality of life of the people of Cahersiveen with specific, identifiable, definable problems. You are facing those while keeping an eye on the overall state of the town. One wishes you well and hopes that as the general economy improves that all ships in Cahersiveen will rise with that rising tide.