

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Duagh** Ref: **335**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **227**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	27	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	17	15
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	5	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	218	227

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Na fáiltí geala roimh Duagh go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. Our wish is that your village benefits from being involved in this year's competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and most helpful map. It is clear from your Facebook page that you get support from your community in your clean-up works. Your entry has a list of agencies with whom you interact. In with next year's submission you might let us know how those agencies interact with you, tell us the nature of the support you get from them, let us know what the main issues you have to discuss with those agencies in order to benefit Duagh. With regard to the school you say that they look after the tidiness around their area. Do you interact with them in any other way, for instance do ye discuss their success in gaining their Green Flags? By comparison with other villages Duagh is relatively new to the TidyTowns competition. Do you think your village has benefited from entering the competition? You say that involvement has raised awareness among residents of the importance of keeping their area clean and tidy. Admirable. Well done on your enthusiasm.

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

The highlight of the built environment for the adjudicator is the visit to the graveyard and the inscribed stone commemorating the monks from Kildare who brought the faith to Duagh and commemorating all in the graveyard with a special mention for the famine dead. But that is not to downplay the appearance of the Church and the great work recently completed on the belfry. Wonderful. The school also presents itself proudly. Another buildings of note is the Family Resource Centre which would not have been noticed were it not for the map. While down at the graveyard one came on the grotto which is also well maintained. It is difficult to comment on the leisure centre as it is still a work in progress. The scale of the building is surprising in a small village so one hopes that it will bring employment and fresh energy to the village. Commemorations help to give a sense of the past. Two have been mentioned but the 1848 rebellion is one that is rarely commemorated. One hopes that the Duagh Foodstore is still in business because it adds to the colour of the street and such a building holds a central place in the village streetscape. The Elm Bar is equally important to the streetscape. C Lyons has the traditional raised lettering which still adds to the traditional look of the street. The people of Duagh can be proud of the GAA complex. Great to spot the playground.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Duagh does declare that this is the season of colour with its lovely floral displays. A highlight is the planting at the rear of the Church, fresh and promising. The planting at the gable of what may have once been a grain store though attractive and worthwhile is in danger of hiding some of the beautiful art work which celebrates George Fitzmaurice. Those conifers may not be the most suitable plants for that location. The hard and soft landscaping outside Stacks

is a wonderful project now completed. The perennial planting that softens that corner is a delight, the gravel surface looking pristine. Residents along the street make a great contribution to the summer seasonal colours but one feels that a more concerted effort needs to be made along the street in order to enhance the buildings on the street.

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

The adjudicator is disappointed that no progress has been made in this section. Last year's adjudicator made a host of suggestions so this year's adjudicator is going to say very little in case he annoys the life out of ye. The school is involved with the Green Flag programme. Maybe the pupils or teachers could give you the decisive push.

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

Firstly well done to school authorities and pupils for their involvement in the Green Flag movement and for their achievements to date. Those children will become more aware of the need to manage the community's resources properly and will have good practice engrained in them. Delighted to read that there is a community garden in the village and that the water is harvested. These are both worthy resource saving projects. The disappointing aspect for the adjudicator is that there does not seem to have been any development since last year. Last year's adjudicator mentioned composting as a venture for you. Do you have any contact with the Kerry Environmental Area Officer? His phone number is in the County Council website. I am sure that he would make suggestions that would suit your needs.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

When arriving from Listowel one is given an immediate impression of tidiness by the attention to the grass margin and the sight of the half barrel of flowers. A great start. In general the street buildings continue that image of the tidy village. One can see the value of your work in both tidiness and litter matters. There is very little litter but the village is not litter free, a pity for a small area. Do ye take part in the national clean-up day in April? If not make an effort to register for next year. Apart from the clean-up it fosters community spirit and creates an awareness of the curse that litter is. There are a few areas in which the road surface is rough and the pebbles and dust sweep onto neater areas causing a problem. Make sure that directional signs are kept clean. The hedge on the Hill Road is interfering with the speed limit signs. A job for the Council and while they are at it show them the Duagh sign.

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

The main residential areas are on the street, the approach roads and Cois Ard. The residences on the street help create the traditional village appearance in Duagh. They are well painted, whether occupied or not. Heroic work has been done in ensuring that vacant premises do not develop a vacant appearance, camouflaging in one or two is most effective. The houses down to the graveyard have great designs and bring colour and vitality to their area along that side of the road. A charming feature of the housing is that the houses represent so many ages and so many backgrounds from the farmers' houses to the shop cum premises to the labourers cottages to the suburban bungalows of more recent times. The hills and hollows of the village provide vantage points for building and the cottages on the way down the hill take full advantage of the declining slope. Lovely. If Cois Ard does not have a Residents Association then you should go about helping them start one as there are some issues that could be addressed in this estate.

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

This is a very small village but the Fáiltego Duáth signs help to establish that this little village is a significant place. The hanging baskets on the bridge show that the people in this village care about their appearance. A well maintained grass verge helps announce the village. Creating that kind of welcome on the Abbeyfeale end is more challenging but still worth pursuing that challenge. The houses add to the welcome. Do not be afraid of the wilderness on the approach roads but make sure that you control it and not it controls its surroundings.

Concluding Remarks:

Life is not easy for a TidyTowns group in Duagh in that there are many challenges facing you that are beyond your control. But yet a TidyTowns group in Duagh have wonderful opportunities. The appearance of the village depends on how you motivate yourselves as a group and how you succeed in motivating the community to become passionate about their áit dúchais. The outcomes of both will mould the opinion ye have of the village. The appearance of your village could deteriorate and cause people to think of Duagh negatively. The appearance of your village can be improved and create that positivity that generates community pride. Yours is a big responsibility.