

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lisryan** Ref: **2171**
County: **Longford** Mark: **219**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	22	25
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	29	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15	16
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	23	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
TOTAL MARK	450	208	219

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ta Fáilte Romhat Lios Riain! Welcome Lisryan to the Super Valu 2015 National Tidy Towns competition. We are delighted to have you in the competition in this - the second year of your entry. Having nine persons involved on your committee is excellent representation from a small community. You are happy with what you have achieved during the past year, and we commend you on your work. You also involve new residents in your work. You have received help and support from a number of sources. You are all-inclusive in your communication methods - traditional and modern. We are glad to see that the schoolchildren are involved in your work. Last year's adjudicator said "do put together a three-year plan for the village". We reiterate this advice. A three or five-year plan will focus your mind on what you can hope to achieve - no matter how simple a plan it is. A plan need not be prepared professionally, but you should consult locally in preparing such a plan. You should also consider any statutory and non-statutory plans applicable to Lisryan in drawing up your work programme. Please refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for advice in relation to the preparation of a plan. It is essential to progress in the competition and to gain extra marks under this particular category that you submit such a plan in 2016. Thank you for the very clear and well annotated map which you submitted in compliance with the entry form guidance requirements. This was very helpful to the adjudicator and shows care and attention to entry requirements. We are delighted to know that the sense of an inclusive community and achievement is the best reward for you, although obviously development of your facilities and aesthetics mean a huge amount to you also.

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

As your village is very small, buildings comprise mainly residential properties which we consider under that category. The main part of the built environment is the Crossroads Inn and its associated out-buildings. We cannot credit internal redecoration - as we only adjudicate on the exteriors of buildings. However it is obvious that the owners of this property continually maintain their property both inside and out, and it looked very well on adjudication day. The paintwork is fresh and colourful. We particularly admired the lovely stone buildings at the rear of the property with their lovely blue painted opes. On the front elevation - and on the corner and a side elevation - it may be possible to rationalise the signage a little, and to remove the unused hanging baskets bracket. We are delighted to note that the building is accessible to physically challenged users. This is important as this facility is your local shop/public house/petrol pumps, and a meeting place for the village. A whitewashed shed with a faded corrugated roof just along the Castlepollard road would benefit from repainting of each. This is relatively close to your crossroads. We admired some nice traditional gates. One of these was opposite Keegan Fuel; the other was a little further out from the village on the same road. A third was noted - the traditional hooped farm gate - on the road near the housing estate. (Opposite side of the road). Some of the projects you list under this category heading more rightly belong to other categories, where we consider and credit them. An example of this is the washing of signage which we credit under the Tidiness category.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have ploughed and reseeded the playing field. You also say that you have replaced the fencing with wooden fencing and native hedging. However there is still a length of damaged and leaning fencing - and an area without any fencing along the perimeter of the pitch area - along the Castlepollard (Lismacaffrey) road. This looks poorly. Planting of seasonal flowers is commended. You have removed dead branches and trees. The blue village signs with their flower displays were admired. You have reconditioned the water pump on the Lismacaffrey Road. We admired the stone well with its classically simple hedge and trees surrounds. We admired some lovely fuchsia bushes along the Longford Road. The public grassed areas and landscaped areas were very well maintained on adjudication day.

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

Last year's adjudicator suggested that you provide a 'beeline' along all road verges. We notice that you have done this in certain cases, but there does not appear to be such a corridor along the Castlepollard road beyond the playing field side - as one journeys outwards from the village. We wish to recommend this on all approach roads an uncut inner margin along the hedge edge. This provides a valuable corridor for wild life. We noted some hedge cutting beyond the speed limit sign on the Castle pollard road.

Remember that it is permissible to trim hedging along cultivated ground (e.g. gardens) throughout the year. However with regard to hedge trimming bordering non cultivated land - you are reminded that it is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2006 to cut vegetation in a hedge or ditch on lands not cultivated between 1st March and 31st August annually - this is for the protection of nesting birds. Before trimming any such hedges please consult with your local authority who will deal with this issue if there is a safety aspect involved. In relation to introducing ducks to the pond area we would recommend strongly that you obtain professional advice. Introducing such species can sometimes be harmful to existing species of wildlife or plant life. So be sure that you are doing the right thing here. You have not indicated what type of vegetation you are going to plant around the pond. Once again take professional advice.

Try to ensure that some of the landscaping which you carry out involves planting species to attract bees and other wildlife. It would be a good idea to contact the Heritage Officer in your local authority with regard to the carrying out of a biodiversity/habitat study. Perhaps the schoolchildren could get involved. We hope to hear about progress with such a plan in 2016. You might read the Tidy Towns Handbook which is quite detailed on this category. The Heritage Council's 'Wildlife in Towns and Villages' booklet is also a useful resource.

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

Whereas you avail of recycling facilities, remember that recycling is only part of sustainable waste and resource management. The idea behind sustainable waste and resource management is that you, as a community, do your best to prevent or reduce waste production. You use social media and parish notes to convey advice in this category. You recycle batteries and you note that to the local schools are involved in the Green Schools programme. Have you looked at the Tidy Towns publication in relation to Sustainable Waste and Resource management - the updated version sent to you as updated handbook extract. We strongly suggest that you choose some simple starting point from the project examples given in that publication, and let us have details for 2016 as to how you have raised awareness, and also as to how you have completed any practical steps to prevent or reduce waste produced across your community. You could- for example - get some of the community to survey how much food they waste in a week! Check out the 'Food Waste Challenge' on www.foodwaste.ie for guidance Promoting waste prevention ideas and initiatives are a big part of the Tidy Towns Groups' role in this category. Perhaps you could organise a visit from your County Environmental Awareness Officer who might organise an education day on this topic for your community.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You conduct continuing maintenance and upkeep in of the area on Saturday mornings. Well done to the people who give up their lie-in on a Saturday! You remove outdated posters and signage and wash signage. One small advertising fly post was noted on a pole at the crossroads. The area around the bring banks was clean and neat. However the banks themselves looked a little worn, somewhat dirty, and with signage a little torn and crooked on the bins. A handwritten sign stuck to the side of one of the bins with regard to jam jars recycling could be improved if this is to become a permanent feature. Some upgrading of the immediate area with - perhaps landscaping behind and to the side of the bins would improve the setting of the bins. The main signage above the bins was very clean and in good condition. An unscreened yard area with a blue slightly rusting container (with the initials PIL on it) might be screened. This is just to the east of the Crossroads Inn. A plastic bottle was noted in the fencing along the pitch road frontage. Otherwise the village was litter free. You have, as you say, a committed village which is testament to the effort and pride you put into looking after Lisryan. Falling high fencing along the Longford Road was observed.

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

Lios na Gaoithe estate has good timber fencing and is set back from the road. The estate is very neatly presented. The houses in the village otherwise are individual, and are presented in a most pleasant fashion with lovely gardens. We particularly commend the two houses and their gardens at the immediate crossroads, as these are in a very strategic location for your village, and they are exemplary.

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

The approaches to your village are through pleasant countryside. On the Castlepollard road the 50 K pH speed limit on one side was obscured by hanging branches. Along this road also some set-back areas need weeding and surfacing. Along the Granard road the 80 K pH sign was somewhat obscured, and there were some dead trees in the ditch. We would again recommend the painting of all field gates on approach roads in a uniform colour - where possible - as recommended to you by last year's adjudicator. On the Longford/Edgeworthstown road some setbacks also require surfacing and some property boundaries would benefit from a little attention. Well done to your Solas worker on maintenance carried out on your behalf. Surfacing in front of the new fencing along the pitch area on the Castlepollard road is required.

Concluding Remarks:

Lisryan, as a new entrant to the competition last year has a lot to look forward to in incrementally improving the village year on year. We will follow your progress with interest. You have done well this year. Tosach maith leath na h-oibre! Go n-éirí libh!