

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annagassan** Ref: **487**
County: **Louth** Mark: **269**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	29
TOTAL MARK	450	263	269

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Annagassan is welcome to the 2015 Super Valu Tidy Towns.

Thank you for the completed entry form and the supplementary material in support of your submission.

The map supplied was very much appreciated by the adjudicator as it was only his second time in Annagassan and would not have been in any way familiar with the village and its surrounds.

The copy of the Bio Diversity Plan, which was also submitted by your co participants Castlebellingham with their entry, was a little dated for this purpose.

Also the inclusion of a plan for the village that relates to a period between 2007 -2012 was slightly irrelevant.

I would suggest that the committee just do a simple 3 year plan based on the village needs from now on.

There is no need to get a professional done if resources are tight and when you have within your midst people with the skill to do up one.

If you want an independent assessment of your work the coordinator of the Louth Tidy Towns Together, which one presumes has a connection with Louth County Council, should be able to cast an eye over it and make suggestions.

The committee of 5 is very active in endeavouring to improve the standing of Annagassan in the competition and the fruits its work is evident under the different categories.

You have good support from the local community and its various organisations and this is an endorsement of your work to date.

Communication methods are traditional and effective and maybe the committee consider engaging with the various forms of social media to get your message to a wider audience particularly the younger generation.

Good to note that the Viking Heritage of the village has been highlighted as the adjudicator when looking up the history of Annagassan discovered this fact.

The relationship between the County Council and other agencies including the DSP CE Scheme, where would TT Committees be with it, is strong and long may this continue.

The adjudicator on his walkabout came across a lone jogger on the Dillonstown and brought back memories of Annagassan's most famous sporting star.

You should encourage both schools particularly Dillonstown as it seems to be the nearest to the village to get more involved in your activities on Wildlife, Litter Control and Sustainable Waste Management.

Thanks for your positive comments on how the competition has benefited the community and isn't it nice to know that result of your work has become a "visitor" attraction with a difference.

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

The village is in a lovely setting and the adjudicator would have stayed a little longer to avail of the scenery but had to get on with his job, another more leisurely visit beckons before the autumn disappears.

The information point in the well presented Slans pub was not open on the evening in question but the adjudicator

acquired a little local knowledge from a passerby.

The adjudicator took a stroll down the promenade and the painting of the wall looks as if it has been fully completed. A nice new or repainted gate at the Tain and Oriel Trail signs and the quality of dry stone walling was top class. the adjudicator particularly liked the step style on one part of one of the walls a throwback to a different era.

The amenity area which has a wonderful backdrop in the Irish Sea unfortunately was very well maintained and the seating was clean and free of any bird droppings.

Unfortunately no sighting of a happy couple having their after nuptial snaps taken.

The Glyde Inn and O Neil's Bakery were very well presented and adorned by a few colourful hanging baskets.

The latter is obviously a well known establishment in Louth as its products were noticed the west of the county a few days later.

The Togher Credit Union further down is a nice small premises with ample parking at the back and side but possibly could benefit from a few planters at the front green area.

The Bridge is indeed an iconic feature of the Village and can be best viewed from the Harbour.

The Harbour was in acceptable condition except for the surface which needs to be soft tarred or blind put on it.

Is it possible to put a little information panel on the Kiln indicating its association with the harbour.

There are a few very fine private residences in the village and these will be commented upon in a later section.

The adjudicator visited Dillonstown National School and Naomh Fionbarra John Markey Park and both were very well presented.

The school has fine grounds including a playing field that would do justice to many a club.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The standard in this category was very good with simple arrangements that provided the proper mix of colour and greenery.

The name stones are very impressive and they have been enhanced by the excellent summer bedding mix.

The planting in the stone boat is particularly attractive and was very colourful on the day in question; it has a mix of seasonal flowering shrubs that will be effective all year round.

Both the crucifix and anchor features were visited and the very pleasant and well thought it arrangements viewed.

Well done on erecting a new trellis on the pergola to facilitate climbing plants which may be in place if the adjudicator comes for a visit in the autumn.

The amenity park has been already praised in a previous section and it is also considered in this category as well.

An increase in marks is warranted for your efforts in the last year.

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

There is such a diverse array of wild life havens available in Annagassan that it was a little disappointing that there was not a little more by way of actual mini projects contained in this section.

The adjudicator is very much aware of the constraints that a small committee has in terms of resources and voluntary time but the Village is the ideal place for a series (2/3) of wildlife and maritime information panels.

This is where the involvement of school children would be of benefit as they take part in projects with great enthusiasm and bring no little creativity in the process.

The adjudicator may have been a little too critical at the outset in stating that the bio diversity plan was a bit dated and slightly irrelevant and apologies for that.

The committee need to extract information from that plan that can be updated and that pertains to Annagassan only and then maybe consider creating something visual that can be o public view at a few different locations.

Funding maybe available for such an undertaking so it is worth pursuing.

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

Well done on using discarded material timber and the like and converting them into planters and trellis for use in various projects.

In relation to the school dilemma it seems to this adjudicator that most of the children in Annagassan would go down the road to Dillonstown and your local GAA Club is probably Naomh Fionbarra.

It only stands to reason that you should re engage with the school and try to find common ground with the principal to have the children more in involved in actual projects particularly under this category.

The emphasis is now on waste prevention as on just waste management because the national objective is to reduce the amount of waste produced nationally.

www.localprevention.ie and the EPA website are good sources to get information and on the latter site an update on the status of The National Strategy for Waste Management can be viewed.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Quite an amount of work has been done by the committee on this category and it has paid off handsomely as the Village and outlying areas were near litter free which is a good achievement considering the area to be covered is rather large.

Good cooperation with your neighbours Castlebellingham in the road clean, the adjudicator observed something similar between two adjoining villages in Westmeath.

Well done on achieving an excellent award in a gold medal as part of the Louth Litter League.

Overall the village was tidy and the shore was free of any debris.

Graffiti and fly posting are not issues that you have to contend but one has to be vigilant especially in the summer season when you have a lot of transient traffic through the village.

An increase in marks is warranted.

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

Seaview, which is quite near Dillonstown school!, was visited and this is a very well appointed housing development where the residents take pride in presenting their homesteads to a very high standard.

It has very well looked after green area where the maturing trees are well staked and are in good condition and the entrance has a nice name stone offset by a quality stone shrub bed.

An Rian is very much on par with the above, different type of layout but similar pride of place among its residents. Your comment about the varying quality of property presentation applies to every village and town but not many make a bold statement as you so well done on that score.

The other two developments that were probably built during "the now not with us" boom years and some may be rental properties but it is good to note that co operation in backing your tidy towns work is now forthcoming.

And the two nice small residences with exceptional colour outside the front are being singled out for mention. An increase in marks is warranted.

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

The surface of the Harbour area as stated elsewhere could do with a surface dressing at very least.

The approaches in to the village from Kilsaran, Clogherhead and from Dillonstown were well maintained with grass verges cut in accordance with good practice and a fine long connecting footpath on the latter.

The name stones with appropriate little planting arrangements are very appealing and create good first impressions.

Concluding Remarks:

It's been only the adjudicator's second visit to Annagassan and it was a very relaxing, despite the job in hand, and an enlightening experience. You are wished well for the future.