

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clogherhead** Ref: **917**
County: **Louth** Mark: **263**
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	27	27
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28	28
TOTAL MARK	450	258	263

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Clogherhead is welcome to the 2015 Super ValuTidy Towns Competition.

Thank you for the well documented entry form which was much appreciated by the adjudicator.

Unfortunately the map did not match the quality of the entry form by a long shot and it was left to adjudicator to figure the geography of the town and outlying areas for himself.

I would suggest that you get some artist from within the community to draw up descriptive map that would do justice to this idyllic coastal village.

Good to note that you have added members to your committee since last year.

15 is quite a lot for a committee if agreement of everyone has to be sought on issues and it would be best if an executive of 4 was appointed to oversee input from sub committees and then make decisions and assign work tasks.

The Committee has good relationship with the local authority in the county, TUS, SOLAS and Louth Tidy Towns Together which is facilitated by the good offices of Louth County Council and other relevant agencies such as the Heritage Council which has contributed towards the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The adjudicator was very much impressed with the Clogherhead Development Group links with Safe Nights Ireland with whom he had contact with in a different capacity earlier in the year.

Well done on the clothes bin adoption idea as it is another, albeit small, source of funds.

Communication methods are a mix of the old and new and the adjudicator can vouch for the regular updating of your facebook page.

Having the teachers and pupils of Callystown NS as regular partners in your activities is a big plus and as an aside this is fine school that has certainly embraced the Green Flag programme.

Also it is very heartening to note that you have involvement with the both senior citizens and the youth of the parish.

In the 8 years in the competition you have made very good progress.

Thank you for the positive comments on how the competition has benefited the village and parish.

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

The adjudicator visited Clogherhead on a very fine summer afternoon when the village was looking at its best and number of its citizens were out either painting or cleaning and in another case in the middle of remedial work on an existing property.

All what have you have listed in this category has been noted and initiatives such as the "Big Idea" painting scheme are very worthwhile and contributory to the village looking well.

The new seats and information boards one for tide times were visited and noted as necessary for that particular area of the village.

The number of seaside areas around the country that don't have tide times posted in prominent locations is quite staggering so well done on that score.

The following appealed to the adjudicator for different reasons; Markeys Bar possibly could be considered as friend of mine described a place in Glasgow as "kinda retro" but it had nice appeal and a bright colour scheme, the painting and the art camouflaging of house near Roberto's take away was very creative,

Roberto manages his manages his Take Away/Diner well as it was clean and tidy.

The Clogherhead Credit Union very fine building with bright colour that one associate with coastal villages, Primrose House again vibrant colour on dashed wall which is lovely to see.

Polars House with lovely stone plague and its sister house just below were in splendid and the owner from the West a very engaging gentleman.

Public buildings such as St Michaels RC Church, Calleystown National School in John Kirk Park and the RNI Lifeboat House were all presented in a very fine manner.

It would be remiss not to mention the people that look after these properties on an ongoing basis as they do exemplarily work.

Some very fine private residences, including two lovely single storey semi detached town houses, were to be seen in the village and on the outskirts.

There are a few negatives like everywhere else and one wonders why put a welcome sign to caravan park users on a derelict property as was seen on the road in from Termonfeckin.

Compliments to the Fishing Co Op staff for well maintained premises down at the equally well run harbour.

For the vibrant colour scheme seen all over the village an additional mark is warranted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The committee has ensured that what is in place by way of public planting is well looked after and this is the case in most instances.

There are a few permanent beds on the outskirts of the town that are getting a little choked and maybe of the committee with landscaping knowledge might do an audit of all and assess their condition.

Stine walls and stone work per say is a feature of the village and there were some fine examples of stone beds one in particular at the mural wall at the north end of the village prior to heading out the Dunleer road.

Some additional features which could be included under this category such as ball alley wall could be enhanced by a lone planter of lavender or the like.

The adjudicator is aware of the herb and butterfly garden within but an on the street planter maybe a nice addition.

Well done to all the villagers that have provided hanging baskets, half barrels and other forms of containers for colourful display.

There were some very fine individual gardens to be seen both in housing developments and stand alone properties.

Finally compliments to the owners of the Bia Cafe for sponsoring the concrete flower tub at the top end of Main Street.

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

Quite a few projects are listed in this section and whilst some are replicated in other centres there a few born out of the community's own creativity.

Just as an aside the centres that do well in this category nearly always have a very strong relationship with the local school and in the case of Clogherhead this certainly is the case.

The harbour indeed is a focal point and where would one get a more natural area with a multiplicity of wildlife and marine habitats.

As there was no bio diversity plan included the adjudicator was not able to see the resultant survey of both land and marine species of wild life.

The excellent information board gave an insight into the local Guillemot colony and their nesting and migratory habits.

The sea search poster at the area near RNI Boathouse was very informative for a landlubber.

Well done on the involvement of the school in the county Eco Tribes programme,

This category offers you more opportunity for another project of calibre in conjunction with Calleystown School, one that is particular to Clogherhead itself.

You are wished well with your endeavours for the future and hopefully the last sentenced doesn't put undue pressure on the committee!

Finally as a man from a dual, well so called, county I was impressed with the on beach poc fada competition.

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

The bring bank facility was extremely well maintained and cordoned off and this seems to be the standard seen all over County Louth.

Well done to having an "ownership" scheme in place.

The adjudicator has to be honest here and say that what you have listed is very much what has seen in the vast majority of centres in the county.

When this category was re vamped the emphasis was to be on waste prevention not to the exclusion of waste management per say but the need is to prevent so as to reduce the dependency on managing.

Prior to next years competition the committee should consult with www.localprevention.ie for project ideas related to waste prevention and EPA website for an update on the National Strategy for Waste Prevention.

Also get in touch with the County Environmental Officer to find out if there are any county wide information nights planned for the winter ahead.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on attaining the Silver Medal in the Louth Litter League and your involvement in the County wide spring clean up.

You have put an immense effort into this category and mixed the basic requirements for good litter control and general tidiness with a novel Chain Gang Litter Van.

Both the beach and harbour areas were in very condition and only a few pieces of litter were seen on the evening in question albeit it was a quiet period.

Been free from over head wiring is a huge plus at the village was at its best on a blue sky evening.

Roads surfaces were very good and there weren't any broken paths of note.

Outside of the one or two derelict properties and a few messy side areas the standard of general tidiness was very good.

An increase in marks is justified

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

There are more cluster housing areas in Clogherhead than this adjudicator bargained for lucky he was in good walking fettle.

Fr O Connell Park was visited and traversed extensively and one can see why it is an ongoing prize-winner.

John Kirk Park is a rather large estate and the standard is a little mixed but most of the residents are doing their utmost to present homes to a good standard but as the old Tayto used to say There's always one.

Ard Na Mara is a large recently developed estate and as far as one can recall it doesn't have a name stone but I'm open to correction.

It is maturing very well and has some very expansive green areas.

Sean Tobair an equally impressive estate of single storey detached houses was also presented to a very high standard with some fine individual gardens.

Green areas with maturing trees were well managed.

The thatched houses on Strand Street had to be visited and they didn't disappoint.

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

The main entrances in to the village from both ends of the R166 were in good acceptable condition.

Internal roads such as down to the Harbour were up to standard and maintained well.

Your work on keeping verges cut and hedgerows maintained in accordance with good practice is appreciated.

Your are wished well with the development of the Headland Walk and the new additional welcome signs will be an added enhancement to the entrances.

Concluding Remarks:

It's been quite a while since the adjudicator was in Clogherhead and the experience makes him want to come back again and explore this coast line on a more relaxed visit. You've had a successful 8 years in the competition and no doubt will have more success in the years ahead.