

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collon** Ref: **490**
County: **Louth** Mark: **279**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	31
TOTAL MARK	450	275	279

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Collon is welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition for 2015.

Thank you for the sketch map of the village which allowed the adjudicator identify places outlined for inspection and places of interest in Collon.

The Committee of 10 with the additional volunteers is just about right for a village the same size as Collon but it seems that work is left to the same people each year.

It may be worthwhile getting in touch with Louth Tidy Towns Together which is probably under the auspices of Louth County Council and see can you be assisted to help you to develop a 3 year plan.

This plan need not be an elaborate piece of work just something that gives you a set of goals and work targets for each year of its existence.

It's good to appreciate the businesses that support and you have done that in this section of the entry form.

Also it is important to involve the school more in your activities especially when it is one of the top performing national schools in the county.

Eventually the junior involvement could stem from this relationship.

The trusted forms of communication have served you well but these should be supplemented by various forms of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Whats App anything that will get your message to the wider public and especially to the younger generation.

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

The following are a few observations made by the adjudicator under this section,

There were some fine and well presented buildings in the village on the day which unfortunately was wet for a good part of the time.

The Garda Station, with its plaque in honour of Sgt Patrick Morrissey killed in the line of duty all those years ago, is one of the finest stations, of those that are left open, in rural Ireland today.

It was well presented which is a credit to those responsible for its upkeep.

It looked like that the impressive Church of Ireland was undergoing repair.

The public graveyard, which had a very large funeral that day, was also well maintained and again credit to the people who are responsible.

The RC Church in the Village centre was also well maintained as a place of worship should be.

The National School with the quirky slow signs on the two piers is a fine modern building of nice design.

Further down school lane was the ground of the famed Mattock Rangers GFC -memories of Sean Og O'Ceallachain on Sunday night calling out the results of Mattock Rangers, Cooley Kickhams, Newtown Blues and Dreadnoughts.

For a guy from down the country these were magical team names and Louth has some unusual ones,

Crosby Butchers is a nice tidy small premises, The Roadhouse Cafe a focal point for neighbours and visitors alike.

The Campus Garage was pretty tidy and had a neat frontage, John Watters multi faceted business premises was in good condition all round.

The Road surfaces were good and the village streetscape was not affected by overhead wires.

Like many other similar size places Collon has its few derelict spots.

If a 3 year work plan is put in place provision can be made within it for measures to address this problem

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Village Green looked very well even if the day was wet and the very impressive name stone enhances it no end.

The herb and wildlife garden was visited and it was in good condition and some nice herbs such as thyme, rosemary and sage were in full bloom.

Some nice individual communal planting arrangements were viewed including three wall tubs on the boundary wall of back lane into Papal View and the window boxes in the school.

Collon would benefit from a mini landscaping plan as part of the overall 3 year plan and one should make contact with the Louth County Council Horticultural section for advice.

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

The entry for m just mentioned the wildlife sanctuary and bird feeders without any other comment in relation to its upkeep or who monitors it on a regular basis.

More involvement with the National School is required in this category as well and without being overtly repetitive all activities should be included in a plan with a fixed timescale for work targets

Collon NS has been successful in the local authority primary schools competition and has gained further green flag accolades in the last year.

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

Since there was an admission that because of circumstances no work was undertaken in the last year under this category the mark stays the same.

When you set about starting on a project later in the year bear in mind that this section is now about waste prevention as distinct to waste minimisation and management.

Please consult [www.localprevention .i.e.](http://www.localprevention.ie) for ideas and the EPA website for updates on the National Waste Prevention Strategy.

Also make contact with the local environmental officer who will advise you on how to go about creating awareness among the community for the need for waste prevention.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

If possible try and limit the use of chemical sprays for treating weed growth and if you have to go with the spraying method use organic sourced material.

Good cooperation between the CE Scheme workers and the volunteers in trying to ensure that the village is kept litter free if possible and that kerbs, communal side areas and boundary walls are freed of weed growth.

The Village looked good on the day and relatively litter free except for a few pockets.

One or two bins were a little tatty with green mold and need to be cleaned.

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

The adjudicator was impressed with the manner in which private residences were presented in general.

There were many fine period houses in the village proper and these were in very good condition and full credit to owners as it is not easy to maintain them without incurring some hefty costs. Dashed walls are hard to look after and somewhat more costly to repaint than your standard wall

Papal Drive is a fine well presented local authority housing development, with some lovely individual gardens, an excellent name sign with flower bed of bedding begonias and a nice green area with a few mature trees and shrubs.

There is another relatively new small housing development on the side road down to the School and Mattock Rangers Ground that was very well maintained as well.

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

Two very impressive main entrances could be further enhanced by name stones incorporating the present flower beds and this would make a greater impression.

These stone signs could include some recognition by way of design or lettering of the Village association with Mellifont Abbey.

The Tinure entrance could be improved upon by having the verge cut back according with good practice

Concluding Remarks:

It was very pleasant to re visit Collon and that wonderful place of spirituality Mellifont Abbey after a number of years and see the positive things that have occurred. Get younger people on board and do put a little plan together as the Village has more to give to the competition. You are wished well for the future.

