

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greenore** Ref: **496**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **290**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	51	52
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	7	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>290</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Greenore is welcome to the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you very much for the concise and informative entry form completed with map and additional information sheet, Greenore Biodiversity Plan, Louth Walking Trails and Best Shop Front Award poster.

The committee of 8 is very active on the meetings front with 10 monthly meetings that oversee the work programme for the year.

Maybe a simple 3 year work plan could be included with next year's entry as this allows for a planned format with timescales within work is completed

The annual beach clean helps to foster a spirit of community cooperation between residents and it is noted that you actively encourage new people on board to help you with your activities.

Well done on the links that you have formed with the local businesses and other organisations and all operating on the same premise that of making Greenore a special place to live in.

The local golf club attracts quite a number of outsiders and it's important that the village is putting its best foot forward at all times.

Good links have been forged with Louth County Council and this relationship has proved beneficial to the village.

Scoil Mhuire pupils are encouraged to become involved in a practical way by engaging in projects such as Eco Tribes Garden planting that fosters the preservation and promotion of various forms of wild life.

The school children also have the advantage of having the sea and access to the marine life that live on shore or in the deep.

The methods of communication are a mix of the tried and trusted such as information leaflets, shop notices and texts and emails.

It is recommended that maybe the committee might engage a little more with social media options Facebook and Twitter and now supplemented by What's App and Viber as these are outlets that the younger generation communicate through.

The adjudicator notes that you are part of a Facebook collective with neighbouring Tidy Towns Carlingford, Grange and Omeath but it doesn't seem to be too active of late.

The committee should get on to Louth Tidy Towns Together and see if they can be of help.

The adjudicator was very interested in the maritime history of Greenore and its present day links with Kilkeel commemorating the sinking of the Connemara all those years ago.

This was depicted in the excellent museum and model railway in the Greenore Co Op

Your comments in relation a certain disappointment with the reports on your village have been noted and this adjudicator intends to do the job in a fair and impartial manner.

At this juncture one has to point out that you have attained pretty high marks in the competition to date compared to similar sized centres who would have done as much work and attained a good deal less marks. Maybe it's the way different adjudicators interpret things.

Whilst you supplied an information note there was no update on your 3 year it would have been worthwhile if even a one pager with a bullet point list of work done since last year was included as it would have allowed the adjudicator to make comparisons.

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

The adjudicator had done some back up on the history of the Greenore Co Op and had also looked up its Facebook page which wasn't really up to date.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage had stated that the building which was built in 1870 was now used to house a maritime museum and also had a shop and cafe.

The museum, shop and tea rooms is well worth a visit and the lady owner is very welcoming and informed about the overall history of Greenore.

Well done on winning shop front of the year in 2014 Louth Looking Good Awards.

One presumes that the Euston Street name comes from association with the London North Western Railway Company credited with the building of the village in the late 1800's

The street houses on both Euston and Anglesey Streets are unusual and not to be seen in too many similar sized villages in Ireland they are more akin to what one would see in Railway villages in England or mid part of Scotland.

It might be worth considering initiating talks with Louth Tidy Towns Together to see what advice you could get to investigate having an information panel in the village proper that would give a history of this unique planned village. On adjudication day properties looked resplendent with window boxes of trailing petunias and lobelia and ground planters with similar arrangements.

The achievements of the O Hare Brothers professional golfers have been recognised by a combative plaque on the wall of No 4 Anglesey Street.

The adjudicator observed the No 2 stone plaque identifying the village tourist trail

Both the street lighting and furniture were well maintained and painted and contributed to the orderly look of this pleasant village.

Road surfaces and foot paths within the village and in the outskirts were in very good condition

One noticed that a planning application was up on one of the houses to erect an extension and no doubt this falls within the architectural conservation statute that applies to the village.

The port area that was accessible to the adjudicator was well managed, busy and orderly.

The Lifeboat boathouse was clean but the immediate ground area was a little rough and needs to be resurfaced.

A street lamp was in a precarious condition at the entrance to the village and maybe that was the needs to be replaced.

The Broadway Bar and Lounge looked as if it was closed and the old phone box beside looked a little worse for wear. Maybe the committee might make representations to have it improved.

Star of the Sea RC Church and Scoil Naomh Mhuire are both situated a bit from the village at Muchgrange but serve the parish.

Both were very well maintained with grounds clean and tidy, provision was made for ample parking on what is a very tight road.

Finally the Golf Club and Grounds were in top class condition and busy on the day in question.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

The standard of landscaping and planting arrangements both public and within private gardens was very good.

The window and gown level boxes of colourful annuals added splendidly to the look of Euston and Anglesey Streets both of which were very tidy, clean and straight as a die.

Euston Street permanent stone arrangement has combination shrubs that are both manageable and sustainable and will give all year round effect.

The planting area at the Port entrance building was acceptable but maybe at the right time the shrubs bed can be pruned back as a few were getting woody.

Maybe consider re vitalising it altogether with a mixture of low lying shrubs like euonymus and spirea and have a pebble bed effect.

It is important to continue the maintenance that you carry out regularly as the village has more planting arrangements than would think right out exit road by the golf club.

Well done on work being undertaken on sea front it will produce an array of colour in due course.

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

The Bio Diversity Enhancement Plan is a very comprehensive document that has gone into great detail in back round research in the scope of the project.

It is part of a three location Louth Tidy Towns Biodiversity Plan that is under the auspices of Louth Co Council who have copyright on the document.

As you have stated contact has been made with Louth CC to ascertain and how and when recommendations within the plan can be implemented

There are a few new initiatives that have been put in place since last year that show the committee's intent in making progress in this category.

Further School involvement is also recommended and should be part of any work programme that evolves from the recommendations outlined in the conclusion summary of the enhancement plan.

The bug hotel is different to most ones viewed by the adjudicator to date so well done on a little bit of creative construction!

The wildflower garden area will bloom in time as at the moment it looks a little devoid of colour.

An increase in marks is recommended.

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

Greenore seems to have been marked a little low in this category over the last few years.

The category was reviewed and revamped prior to last year's competition.

Much of what you have included for this year seems to have mentioned in last year's report!

The committee should appoint one of its members to take ownership of this category and to engage with the environmental officer for the county to see what is happening from a county perspective ie seminars or information evenings.

The primary emphasis in this category is the prevention of waste as distinct from the management/minimisation element only.

The following websites need to be consulted [www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) and the EPA website which will give an update on the National Strategy for Waste Prevention.

It would be also worthwhile to make contact with the management of the main commercial company in the area The Port Company to ascertain if they can offer assistance or expertise that would be of help to you.

Investigating the possibility of having a dedicated biodiversity guided walk should be included in plans under the previous category.

## **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Litter control in the core of the village was very good and the area is comparatively easy to patrol, that said it takes somebody to take ownership to make sure that the standard is maintained and this you have done by having one person responsible.

In terms of general tidiness the adjudicator felt that the back walkway area, which incidentally is part of village tourist trail, of Euston Street is a little untidy and needs to be addressed prior to next year's competition.

There is some broken fencing on the left hand side on the way out from the village quite near one of the industrial units.

Some weed growth was observed at kerbside out of village along by the golf course boundary wall.

A few pieces of litter including a copy of novel by John Grisham! were noted on the beach area, the adjudicator has the novel.

Overall the standard was acceptable but do ensure that signs and fingerpost signs are cleaned each year as they can become a bit tatty with the weather conditions that prevail during the winter's season.

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

The adjudicator notes from your input in this section that as the village is probably one of the most unique in terms of its unique architectural standing everything possible to conform to the ACA requirements is adhered to.

The two terraces were in pristine condition and it's important to address condition of the back areas to make sure that they are complimentary to frontages.

Provision for this work is being looked at as per the entry in the next section

Green areas were well maintained and as mentioned in a previous section street furniture was in good order.

Well done on seeking advice on such things as painting options that will be in keeping with the nature of the village as it stands.

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

Good to note that there is a move afoot to develop an enterprise centre that will stimulate new start ups and even more note worthy is that the idea came from within the community.

The area where this is earmarked for was noted during the adjudication walkabout.

Road surfaces were good except for a few side areas including the one mentioned in last year's report.

The back lane mentioned in the last section does need to be cleaned and re surfaced as soon as possible.

## **Concluding Remarks:**

Overall the standard was good.