

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Omeath** Ref: **995**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **259**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2015**

	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	36	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>259</b>

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

Omeath is welcome to the 2015 Tidy Towns Competition for 2015.

Thank you for the comprehensive entry form and the excellent map which made the job of the adjudicator that bit easier as he would not have been very familiar with the village.

In relation to your comment the ending of the plan and the lack of resources to entertain doing a new one I would suggest that you have plenty expertise within your group to do a new one without having to resort to expensive consultants.

The adjudicator feels that your underestimating your own ability to do this body of work and it can be in simple table format under the headings of the competition.

A 3 year plan would be realistic as it is timescale that can be managed more easily.

The committee of 6 people is very much a proactive committee judging by the level of activity and work that you are engaged in.

It is good to note that you have good support from the local people and other organisations.

Involvement with the two relevant cross border projects will allow Omeath to become involved in collaborative projects which could be on long term sustainable benefit to the village.

It is important to keep links with the local authority, agencies such as Leader, Solas and other bodies that work with you in your capacity as a voluntary body.

Funding from

Communication is done by tried and trusted older methods complemented by the newer forms of social media and now that you have got your own web presence its important to populate with relevant content.

Pop up stands are becoming an increasingly popular means of promotion and relatively cheap to procure.

It's good to report that you have an excellent relationship with both National Schools and this will expanded further in the relevant sections of the report

As your submission is very comprehensive and contains a lot of individual detail the adjudicator wishes to point out that this report covering eight categories has to be completed within a 2 page structure and within the guidelines of the competition.

Be assured that adjudication will be fair and impartial and will reflect the work undertaken over the last year.

You state that Tidy Towns competition has helped to create a new awareness about the village and its coastal location and hopefully over time the village will regain the popularity as a visitor destination that it once had in the 70s

An increase in marks is merited.

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

The work you have done in this category in partnership with others is impressive and has helped the development of

the village immeasurably..

The adjudicator spent quite a long time in the village and can appreciate that there is still a lot of hard work to be done in the years ahead in this category

It's a big challenge for any voluntary body to get things done and patience is needed but you have put a very achievable plan of work in place.

Omeath like most other similar sized rural villages has a number of properties that have either fallen into disrepair or are just in need of some attention by way of basic painting

It's not for me to highlight the obvious black spots in this regard as it's more than likely that committee are well aware of them.

Also a few business premises have closed down and that's another issue for you as a committee to address in due course.

The adjudicator would like to concentrate on the positives that impressed him in this category.

The Dolmen Centre which houses the Omeath Development Company is fine premises and is well maintained and credit is due to those who are responsible for its upkeep.

Siopa Lorcaín was in good condition and busy but maybe the level of fly posting could be reduced.

The relatively new Mace Shop and Esso Service Station is a fine facility that has a expansive forecourt and organised parking spaces.

McGinnis Variety Store obviously no longer in business is link with a different era when Omeath was once a popular resort.

Who knows it might still re invent itself.

Similarly McKeown's General Supply Stores must have been one of the main businesses of its time and it is good to see the link retained albeit in a slightly unusual manner.

The Barbers Shop at the Church end of the village had a very simple but effective sign and the adjudicator was impressed with the provision of an access facility to cater for clients with mobility problems.

It looked as if there was some building work ongoing at Mulligan's store.

Aras na Gael, Top Garage and Cooley Credit were business premises that also were presented to a very good standard but its a pity to see Conlons closed and one suspects that the village was too small to accommodate service stations and shops/.

The adjudicator was impressed with h both schools and the landscaping in both will be commented upon in the next section.

St Laurences RC Church, grounds and the adjoining graveyard were all presented in a manner that was a credit to those responsible for their upkeep.

It is nice to report that a number of new businesses started up in the last year so well done to the Pharmacy and Fruit & Veg proprietors for having the confidence in setting up shop literally.

The wonderful work on the promenade and pier was noted and good to note that it had public funding support.

The completion of the Greenway section and the improvement of St Laurence's Hall are more positive improvements since last year

Dereliction is a problem encountered in nearly all towns and villages but the committee has addressed this and taken measures to negate it somewhat.

Overall the standard was very good and worthy of an increase in marks.

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

Some centres have too many communal planted and green areas that voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns committees cannot manage and because of this some areas suffer from overgrowth and lack of care.

Your approach this year is an excellent one it's important that you maintain what you have in place as well as taking on new projects that can be managed easily enough.

Well done on the work you co volunteers have done in grassing the edge near Tony's Takeaway and also planting climbing roses on the trellis at the side wall of the Caravan Park.

This is the type simple improvements that are very contributory to good landscaping

The adjudicator came in by the Oriel Trail road and stopped to admire Ardagh National School and its excellent planting arrangement.

The ground stone beds at the new improved promenade had just been filled with a mixture of marigolds as well the large planters near seating area which were filled with bedding begonias ready to bloom later in the summer.

The use of waste material as a base for flower planting is to be commended and indeed the resultant planters looked very effective.

The old concrete tub housing the begonias and geraniums at the village pump could painted cement grey or white to brighten it up.

A couple other large beds were observed during the walk about that contained all year round sustainable shrubs.

Some nice individual planters including hanging baskets were observed around the village and well done for re planting then so early in the year.

A bed at the base of wall obscuring the name stone Shore Co ? has become a little overgrown and untidy.

There is a concrete area near the beach that is over grown with weed and grass growth and this could be considered for a wildflower area in the future.

Overall the standard was very good and worthy of an increase in marks.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:**

Some excellent work in this category and it proves what this adjudicator has been advocating over time is that when committees get the local schools fully committed and have the full support of teachers that the results will follow.

The Rosemary Railway is one unique project and full marks to all concerned and was one of the best viewed under the Eco Challenge programme.

Well done to the parents also for being motivated to do their own project as a support contribution to the school children's work.

The wildlife garden was visited and looks as if some major re working has been done and the newly painted fence was noted.

Well done on the ongoing enhancing of the very fine bio diversity bed it had a wonderful combination of plants and herbs.

For the work that has been done in the last year an increase in marks has been granted.

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

This category was re vamped to promote the concept of waste prevention and communities have been encouraged to engage in projects with that in mind.

The bring bank centre near St Laurence's Hall was very tidy and cordoned off well with ample off road parking for users

Most of the mini projects that you listed in this section have been replicated in the majority other centres in the county, there were a few notable exceptions, and fall into the waste management category which of course is very necessary.

Trashion and Brocante will be words firmly etched in this adjudicator's memory as been associated with County Louth.

To get further information and indeed project ideas on waste prevention the following are useful sources.

[www.localprevention.ie](http://www.localprevention.ie) and the EPA website which will give an update on the status of the National Strategy for Waste Prevention.

Do consult with your the county environmental officer to find out if there are more information nights being planned for the coming winter months.

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

First off the adjudicator wishes to congratulate the Omeath Youth Group for the creative work that they did in producing such a fine piece comic book art on the back wall of the excellent amenity area.

It so much to the facility so well done to the budding graphic artists/animations and their helpers.

Overall the standard in this category was a little mix and the adjudicator is very much aware that the committee has done Trojan work to espouse the message of good litter control and general tidiness.

There were some very fine "projects" including the above and the mural opposite the Ganvue Hotel but to be honest it's not about projects per say but about the basics.

There will always be certain problems that fall outside the control of any voluntary committee and this has to be accepted.

The TUS workers do such an excellent job right around the country but it must be frustrating for them to find litter in the same places on an ongoing basis.

The adjudicator is granting an extra mark for the innovative approach taken in addressing the two areas above.

Litter was noted at a few fairly prominent spots in the village, one a very large overgrown piece of land, and it's very hard to patrol these places on an ongoing basis.

There were a number of untidy areas in the village outskirts but the committee are well aware of these and no doubt measures are been taken to address them.

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

The standard of overall presentation in this category was very good and credit to the individual residents associations for encouraging householders to put their best foot forward.

You are correct when you say that "significant developments" took place over a number of years in the village.

The adjudicator visited the following Shore Court, Ard Cullen Heights, the lovely Cloch Mor Cottages, Bothar Bui, Mullach Alainn and Gentili Heights

A few are long established but many are new in varying degrees of maturity.

As stated at the outset the standard was very good and deserving of an additional mark.

The very fine Children's amenity area has been enhanced by the excellent wall mural which was commented on in a previous section.

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

The approach roads into the village were very well presented especially from the scenic Oriel Trail direction where one got an elevated view of Omeath and the Lough.

The road in from Newry has nice planters and a welcoming sign.

The road out to Carlingford gives some very fine views of the Lough.

Internal roads around the promenade and in the centre of the village were in good condition and the new footpath out from the village to the Church and School gives easier and safer access for adults and children.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was good to visit Omeath after many years and enjoy its coastal ambience. You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead.

