

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stabannon** Ref: **1224**
County: **Louth** Mark: **280**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	33
TOTAL MARK	450	275	280

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Stabannon is welcome to the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you for the concisely completed entry form and the sketch map which was very useful to the adjudicator as it was his first time to visit this idyllic rural village situated in the heart of the arable land of Louth.

The committee of 8 is about right for place the size of Stabannon but the main thing is that you have the support of the local organisations and local people when you need to call on them.

Things like having some of the derelict properties made useful once again are a testament to the local community.

The links with Louth CC and indeed other agencies are extremely important when trying to get sensitive issues that fall within their remit and that impinge on your community sorted to everyone's satisfaction.

The local GAA club is often a good help to groups such as Tidy Towns as it has such a network of members.

One notices that you don't seem to have a CE Scheme in operation and may be that is something to consider when you set down at the end of the year to upgrade your work plan, mention of which there was no update included with entry form this year.

Your presence on the Louth Tidy Towns Together website was noted and the ever changing forms of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, What's App and Viber allow you to promote your activities to a wider audience particularly the younger generation.

Community Links youth members will be avid users of the aforementioned media formats.

Congratulations to the local Scoil Naisiunta San Nioclas, he seems to be a popular saint in Louth1, on achieving 5 green flags.

I'm not surprised at this to be host because one could see from visiting the premises the evidence of the progressiveness of this school which also has a good website.

Top marks to both teachers and pupils.

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

The Village is comparatively small and rural in its built heritage with a very rich history as per some of the old topographical records of County Louth and the Information Board in centre of the village on which you are credited. Scoil Naisiunta San Nioclas was in splendid condition on the day and had some quirky little add ons such as the dog fouling notice.

It looks as if expansion is required judging by the planning application notice on the beech tree.

Both public houses at the same junction are as you state well maintained.

The RC Church was in splendid condition and credit is due those volunteers that undertake this work.

Stabannon Parnell's GFC Grounds is very well appointed and a great resource for the community as well.

One observed that it has notice up for planning application that new flood lights are to be installed and it's also good to report that it has its defibrillator in such a prominent place.

The fitness walkway will be of benefit to the cardiovascular health of all Stabannon residents!

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The new landscaped area at the cemetery was viewed and it will be a big asset to the village when fully matured. Good to note that there was positive response to the adjudicators report last year and this year a large number of planting arrangements were viewed during the adjudication walk about.

The following appealed to the adjudicator, new planting section in the school with a mix of lavender, flame of forest and spirea, flower planting at the entrances to the village, the excellent "stabannon" flower box of alyssum and bedding begonias, some well matured window boxes and hanging baskets.

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

The work done under this category in the last year, primarily in the national school, has been very impressive and has earned you additional marks in this category.

Having Stabannon native Eanna Ni Lamhna available to the school on an annual basis is big bonus for the school children, one presumes that she went to school here given that her father was once a teacher her.

The Biodiversity Plan is one of a number being facilitated by Louth County Council and it will be a big addition to your ongoing work.

Pity that vandalism reared its ugly head and it is surprising that a place as tranquil as Stabannon would be a victim, but I suppose vandalism can happen in any strata of society.

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

The "Pooch Pouch" using old clothing and formed into a pouch and used to hold waste bags to collect dog dirt is really innovative and shows that the Stabannon children are very enterprising.

This idea is more practical and probably less costly than the "Doggie Ambassador" scheme seen elsewhere in the County!

Some of the other initiatives are more in keeping with waste management/minimisation and are replicated in other centres in the county as probably part of Louth Tidy Towns Together group involvement programme.

The adjudicator would recommend that the Committee consult with www.localprevention.ie and also the EPA to find out more on new ideas and also The National Strategy for Waste Management.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Even though the Village has a small core area it has a rather large boundary area to be covered that includes entrances to large tracts of farm land.

Some of these are managed very well and some not so good as in a few instances no warning triangles were seen on the roadway.

The stance you took in conjunction with the other partners in relation to the bin emptying regime issue so well done on that.

One appreciates your difficulty with Wheatfield Estate and this is not a new phenomenon over the last few years!

Well done on achieving medal award in the Louth Litter League in 2014.

Overall the standard was very good and merits an increase.

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

St Nicholas Drive was very good condition and really enhanced by the new fencing, one or two tubs at the boundary wall need to be filled with a colour combination of annuals.

The Wheatfield Residents Association has made good progress in the planting of trees and shrubs that will mature in time.

Many individual homesteads were admired for the tasteful way that they were presented.

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

All approach roads into the village were maintained to a good standard and the name signage in the village is very attractive.

The adjudicator hopes that you will be successful in negotiations with Louth Council to further improve the cross roads entrance.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Stabannon for the very first time and hopefully I will return on a leisure visit soon. You are wished well for the future.