

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emyvale** Ref: **1042**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **246**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	45	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>246</b>

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

Welcome Emyvale to the 2015 tidy towns competition and your participation is appreciated. We were delighted to read that your committee of 16 members (which is significantly larger than last year) has adopted a partnership approach to its work and it enjoys excellent links with all of the community and voluntary groups in the village – of which there are many. We note that you are currently looking for more members to help out with your projects and we wish you success in your recruitment drive. However, while not delegate some of the projects identified in your three-year plan to some of the other community and voluntary groups in the village? For example, would the GAA club like to build and maintain a landscaping scheme at the entrance to their grounds? This can be very effective way of getting additional help without the necessity of attracting new members. It is great to see that you also enjoy a good working relationship with Monaghan County Council and the Community Employment Scheme. We were most impressed with your communication strategy which is based on traditional and digital sources. We would encourage you to continue to develop your online presence as this can reduce or remove the need to produce paper-based communications such as pamphlets and newsletters. Well done on involving the school in your litter picks as this is a great way of getting extra help and raising awareness of the importance of litter control. Why not involve the schoolchildren in projects under the other categories such as landscaping, wildlife and waste management? Once again, they can be a source of new ideas and provide valuable help. Thank you for your completed (and concise) application form and map as they were a great help during adjudication. Please be sure to include your three-year plan and 2016 as it did not appear to be included with this years submission.

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

Your committee has been very busy with projects under the built environment and streetscape category and we are pleased to note that your efforts are paying off as the village centre looked very well during adjudication. Hollins looked smart with its fresh coat of paint and McMahons Pub also impressed with its clean and bright façade and colourful windowboxes. It is great to see that the standard of presentation of commercial premises in the village is generally high with the Medical Centre, McMeals High House and the trio of shops comprising the Pharmacy, the Optician and the Beauty Salon all looking particularly well. The Orange Hall also looked good and well done on prioritising this task as the building occupies a very prominent position in your village. Other improvements are possible for 2016. For example, the Garda station was quite disappointing as it had very untidy boundary walls and a very weedy planter located to the front of the premises while the Emyvale Development Association building at the Riverside would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint. The car park of Steels Garden Centre / Farm Shop was also a little untidy looking due to some overgrown and weedy flower beds and it would benefit from attention. Congratulations on getting a new walkway placed alongside the river as this should serve as an excellent amenity for both residents and visitors alike. Well done on your work to the Leisure Centre (which included the provision of disabled car parking bays) and for providing a commemorative plaque for past tidy towns members. Congratulations

for working to have a new path provided along the mountain water river. The proposed projects of replacing lampposts and removing unsightly advertising signage is also acknowledged.

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

A number of impressive landscaping schemes were to be seen on adjudication day. The 6 new planters on the approach road from Monaghan were admired and they helped to enhance this important approach. A highlight for the adjudicator was the pleasant landscaping schemes that could be seen on the approach from Derry. Here, a combination of the neatly trimmed verge, attractive circular stone flowerbed (with its good diversity of species) and semimature trees provided for a very attractive approach and created a very good first impression for the visitor. The mix of colourful flowering plants and hedging at the bridge on the approach to the town also looked well. In relation to open spaces, we particularly liked the lovely Riverwalk with its excellent seating areas - the new universally accessible new footpath and interpretive signage also significantly improves the quality and usability of this amenity. The planting at the riverbank childcare centre also looked well. The contribution of business owners to this category is recognized with Gormleys shop and McMahons providing very colourful hanging baskets. The work of the tidy towns group with respect to the maintenance of green areas and existing landscaping scheme is also appreciated with the grassed areas of roadside verges and the park appearing trimmed and neat and tidy, while landscaped beds were in good condition and weed free.

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

The committee is commended on following the suggestions of the adjudicator in 2014 and getting a preliminary wildlife assessment completed. The results of this assessment were read with interest and it is clear that your village is home to an excellent diversity of wildlife species. It is important to identify future projects under this category (and indeed under the landscaping category) by using this preliminary wildlife survey. For example, it is important to select plants, hedge and tree species for your landscaping schemes that will support the species that been identified in your survey. It is noted that the preliminary survey was carried out by a qualified ecologist and we wondered if the schoolchildren could carry out a more in-depth assessment of an area in your village as a school project? This is an excellent way of raising local awareness of biodiversity and encouraging further participation in your projects. Other wildlife projects could be considered such as linking the key wildlife areas of the River and the Lough by an off-road walk. The committee is also commended on undertaking a sustainable water management project and we wondered if this experience had enabled your committee to identify any other projects that would be suitable to Emyvale?

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

We are pleased to see that you work closely with the schools under waste minimisation and elimination projects for the green schools programme. It is further noted that you have installed 2 bring centres in the village and that you continue to consult with the tidy towns handbook for ideas for projects. However, it is considered that more to be done as the projects for 2015 were all mentioned in the 2014 tidy towns adjudicators report. Why not adopt the waste minimisation reduction theme when carrying out your own tidy towns projects? For example, you could use the grass cuttings from mowing to make compost. You could engage in rainwater harvesting (by installing water barrels on the down pipes of the leisure centre) and grow your own plants. Another option is to use recycled materials for your projects such as waste paint for your painting projects or surplus timber in your landscaping schemes. All of these projects would enable your committee to 'lead by example' and demonstrate to the rest of your community that waste reduction and minimization is not just possible but also necessary. The options for projects are numerous, but they need to be pursued in order for them to make a difference. Further ideas for projects under this category can be found in the tidy towns handbook.

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

The hard work of the committee on tidiness and litter control is paying dividends as only very small isolated amounts of litter could be found during adjudication day. This is considered to be a very good performance for your village as there is no doubt that the N2 is very busy route and that litter is constantly being dropped by cars and this is posing a challenge for your village. Small amounts of litter can be found at the layby beside the picnic area on the Monaghan approach road, in the Park leading down to the playground and in the small car park to the rear of McMahons Pub. We were most impressed with the standard of tidiness on show with the grass in all road verges neatly trimmed, all roadsides free from weeds and footpaths cleanly swept. However, small improvements remain possible. There was weed directly in front of the Orange Hall and this detracted a little from the good work that had been undertaken here. The soil vent here was in particularly poor condition and was in need of a fresh coat of paint. The forecourt of the Glaslough Harriers building is untidy looking due to weed and rough surfacing while the boundary fence of the pitch is in poor condition and we wondered if it could be screened with a natural hedgerow? In addition, MacMahons car park (to the rear of the Pub) was in need of a sweep. Well done on your projects under this category which included; cleaning up Emy Lough, the Mountain River and the approach roads to the village.

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

The standard of housing on the Main Street was particularly high with virtually all of the houses looking well. The residential areas also achieved a good standard of presentation with a highlight proving to be Mullan Road. Here, the lovely planting (with roses in full bloom), seating area and neat and tidy appearance of each of the houses caught the eye of the adjudicator. Oriel Park also achieved a good standard with its attractive and well maintained grass verges and pleasant semi mature trees to be seen. We note that new equipment has installed in the playground and this was proving popular during adjudication while the work to the services house in Oriel Park was

also observed.

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

The committee is highly commended on its excellent work maintaining the principal approach roads into Emyvale. The Monaghan approach road is most impressive with carefully maintained verges, a series of planters with colourful summer flowering plants and attractive semi mature trees to be seen. The picnic area is also a nice feature. The approach road from Derry achieves a similar standard and both approaches provide a very positive first impression of Emyvale. The approach road from Glaslough does not achieve this high standard but it could be improved by washing the speed limit signage and trimming the grass verges. We are pleased to see that the committee has undertaken a number of projects under this category including; working to get the footpath on the main street replaced and improving the visibility of signage throughout the village (in response to the comments of the adjudicator in 2014). It is also noted that traffic calming measures are proposed on the Main Street and a clean up is planned of the laneway between Lakeview and the childrens playground.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Emyvale is commended on another strong performance in the competition and we are pleased to see that exciting times lie ahead with a number of new projects proposed for your village. We look forward to seeing further improvements in 2016.