

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tydavnet** Ref: **614**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **282**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	39	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	450	270	282

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We are pleased to welcome Tydavnet are in 2015 tidy towns competition. Your hard-working committee of 9 members seems to enjoy an excellent level of support from residents with up to 80 involved in your Spring and Autumn cleanups. Congratulations on your success in the 2014 pride of place competition – and award there was no doubt richly deserved. You are to be commended on teaming up with the Community Centre Committee and a host of other sports and social clubs in your village and we wondered if you have considered delegating any of your projects to them? It is great to see that you have built up strong working relationship with Monaghan County Council, the Community Employment Scheme, the Rehab Care Community and Local Businesses. Your communication strategy is most impressive as it takes advantage of traditional and digital media and we wondered if your website is used to showcase your projects and capture feedback from residents and other community groups? We are delighted to read that you have a strong working relationship with the school and that you work closely together on litter and wildlife projects. It is heartening to read that the tidy towns competition has had such a beneficial impact locally and we thank you for your kind and generous comments on the competition. Thank you for your completed application form which was very clear and a great help when carrying out the adjudication. Your tidy towns plan was read with interest and while it is clearly doing its job, you may like to consider listing the projects under each of the tidy towns categories rather than at each location in your village. This will help you to take a balanced approach to the competition and avoid a situation whereby you have a large number of projects under one category but very few in another.

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

Tydavnet is a very impressive village and it proved to be a lovely place to spend an afternoon. We began by reading the short story of the village on the lovely monument at the junction of the Emyvale road and then continued into the village looking at the interesting buildings and features on view. The wildlife garden is a lovely amenity and with the latest additions of gazebo and swing, we're sure that will prove even more popular with the younger generation in Tydavnet. We particularly liked the pleasant seating areas (such as the one opposite the monument on the Emyvale road and on Main Street) that can be found. The church is a lovely building and it appears to be maintained to a very good standard. It was noted that project to construct a new natural stone wall at the entrance to the church car park had commenced and we look forward to seeing this project completed when we return in 2016. The Community Centre at the opposite end of the village looked very well with its fresh coat of paint and we were most impressed by the school with its attractive grounds and interesting murals on the front boundary wall. The commercial premises in the village are highly commended on the excellent standard of presentation that the achieved with the Rock Inn, Jacks, and the Hair Junction all looking very well. We note your continuing difficulties with the old garage building and the housing site opposite, but while we understand that these issues are challenging to deal with as a voluntary group, we also know that they can take considerable amounts of time to

resolve. Perhaps Monaghan County Council can be of assistance? Under the Derelict Sites Act, they have powers to compel owners to undertake the necessary remedial works to derelict or vacant properties. We acknowledge your proposed projects under this category which comprised the provision of a new feature made of recycled bottles and siting large name stones on the approach roads.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your committee has been busy with projects under this category in 2015 and some high quality landscaping schemes can be seen during adjudication and they included the beautiful roses at the junction of the Emyvale and Clogher roads while the planted landscaping at the little story monument also looked well. An attractive planter can also be seen at the recently painted village pump. We liked the planting scheme at the bank opposite the Scotstown Road and no doubt the perennials and evergreens used here provide for year round colour. The landscaping was also observed around the perimeter of the car park in the community centre. The landscaping in the church car park looked a little tired and in need of a revamp and one hopes that this will take place in conjunction with the new natural stone wall being built. The committee is commended on planting Holly and Beech trees and we look forward to seeing these mature in the years ahead. Your projects involving wildflowers are also considered to be a good idea and well done on the new planting in the wildlife garden - it looked magnificent during adjudication. Your maintenance work on the allotment area is also acknowledged and it is great to hear that this facility is proving popular with local people. It certainly appears to be thriving given the amount of vegetables that could be seen growing in it during our visit.

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

We were interested in hearing that a habitat survey was carried out some years ago and we wondered if this can be made available? Given that some time has passed since the survey, we wondered if it needs to be repeated in order to ascertain whether levels of biodiversity in your village are improving, staying the same or worsening? The original survey is likely to provide excellent baseline information to enable this assessment. We applaud your decision to undertake good practical projects such as organising and carrying out a bat walks and we note that none have been spotted so far. Perhaps the Birdwatch Ireland website can be accessed for pointers on how to spot bats and identify their habitats. We note that you have left the grass long in a number of areas in order to encourage wildlife and that you have sown wildflowers. Be sure to monitor the effects of these changes over time. Well done on planting blackcurrant bushes in the wildlife garden as these (as indeed are all berry bushes) are favoured by birds as a food source. Once again, be sure to monitor any changes that may result in the biodiversity of the wildlife garden as a result of the introduction of the blackcurrant bushes. Perhaps the school children would like to undertake a survey of the wildlife garden at distinct intervals to see if any changes are taking place there? We echo the comments of the adjudicator in 2014 respect to hedge cutting outside the appropriate season and we encourage the tidy towns group to remain vigilant on this matter.

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

We are delighted to read that the committee has educated the public in the village on the need to harvest rainwater for watering flowers in the village and that considerable volumes of water have been saved as a result. We applaud your decision to man the master compost prevent food waste demonstration at the Tydavnet show as this is an excellent way of raising awareness of this issue. It is noted that these demonstrations were very popular and we would urge you to consider undertaking a survey of householders in your village to see how many are actively trying to minimise and eliminate the amount of waste they produce. The results of the survey should help you to identify future projects under this category. We are delighted to see that your committee are making your own compost (through your compost heap and by using the school wormery) for your landscaping schemes and it is great to hear that there has been a good uptake on your allotments. In the event that you need other ideas for projects under this category, they can be found in the tidy towns handbook.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The committee and residents of your village will be delighted to hear that your Tydavnet was litter free during adjudication. This is an excellent performance and all concerned should be proud of themselves. It seems clear that your litter control strategy is working. Your organised approach (by undertaking patrols on a Tuesday (Fas and the rehab care worker) and on a Saturday morning by the junior tidy towns group is commendable and we would encourage you to keep this up. Well done also on segregating the litter collected and on organising annual spring and autumn cleanups with the local national school children. The volunteer evening in May sounds like a very practical and fun way of getting everyone involved and for spreading your antilitter message. The village was also exceptionally tidy with all road verges neatly trimmed and no weed to be spotted along roadsides or road kerbs. A small number of improvements are possible. We wondered why two sign polls can be found beneath the 50 kmph signs on the Emyvale and Scotstown roads? In addition, an untidy black and yellow road sign could be found on the Scotstown approach and the directional sign across from the hair junction was untidy looking as one of the signs (the Monaghan one) and lay on the ground.

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

We are pleased to report that the standard of presentation of individual properties in the village was very high on adjudication day. It appears that the residents are very supportive of your efforts and are keen to do their bit! We note that the committee is continuing to push for improvements to Cnoc na Greine site and that you are working with the owner of the derelict building on the Monaghan road. Unfortunately, these issues are all too common in towns and villages across Ireland so your frustration in this regard are understood.

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

The standard of approach roads are into Tydavnet are generally quite high and we are pleased to see that verges are carefully maintained with trimmed grass and an absence of weeds. It is further noted that the name signage is sponsored by local businesses. In one or two instances, the speed limit signage should be cleaned (the 50 kmph sign on the Emyvale road and the old Monaghan road) more regularly. However, the committee is urged to be vigilant on the issue of hedge trimming outside the appropriate season.

Concluding Remarks:

This has been an excellent performance by Tydavnet and the committee and all concerned should be very proud of themselves. Keep up the good work and we will be back to your village in 2016!