

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Strokestown** Ref: **715**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	41
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29
TOTAL MARK	450	235

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Strokestown is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry, map and Tidy Towns plan. Your committee of 5 have good support from the agencies, Schools and community. The local schools give good assistance with Spring Clean week. It is good to note the competition has increased community awareness and given the community a sense of pride in their village. Strokestown has great space in its wide streets, lovely lanterns and no overhead wires. Some superb landscaping and trees were admired.

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

The Market House is a nice feature of the village and part of its past history. The weighbridge outside was noted. Planters here could do with painting and an information plaque giving a brief history of the weighbridge would be informative to the community and visitors. Strokestown House which is a major tourist attraction in the village was admired. The Courthouse was also noted and admired. Percy French Hotel with its many hanging baskets was admired. The village pump was also noted. J Beirne shop with its traditional shop front caught the eye and the stone front house across with red doors looks well. The house adjacent with its window boxes adding colour to this area was also noted. The site of Hayden's Blacksmith was admired. The information points were noted and read with interest. The Magnet Ballroom back to its former glory was admired. Strokestown Community and Sports Centre is a superb amenity for the village to utilise. Heritage and Geology Centre and grounds looked good. This makes great use of this heritage building. Strokestown Health Centre needs painting. The School looks good and well done on their green flag. There were many more places of interest noted. Too many to list.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There are some superb areas of landscaping starting with the mature trees, hedging and stone walls that form the boundary of the village. This is complemented by the roundabout in the centre. At Bawn Street the lanterns and trees looked superb here. The entrance to Strokestown house also makes a nice feature. The entrances to the village have nice areas of landscaping but need attention with the removal of weeds. On the Westport Road entrance the chain on the green area needs straightening and tidying and the trees need to be staked in this area. The Grotto and park area were visited. This is a lovely amenity. The seats and planters need painting. The many hanging baskets on the bridge and Percy French hotel were admired.

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

Well done on your work in this area which will help you progress in the competition. Walks during National tree week in the woodland walk and surrounds of Strokestown House is a good idea. It was good to note that a number

of children attended biodiversity week in May. There are so many places of environmental interest around Strokestown. Holding educational days with school children and an expert is useful to gather baseline information on the species and habitats found in the community. The key results and outcomes of the survey should be documented and recorded. This base can be further built on in future studies and in time a comprehensive overview of wildlife species and habitats of the village will be available to the community.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramháiola Inbhuanaíthe:

This category is about waste prevention and reducing the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. Your group works along with youth Café and you should also work with the Schools. Through the Green Schools programme the Schools knowledge on sustainable waste should be shared with the community and work together to reduce waste. Some groups are holding workshops to stop food waste as this is an area where a lot of savings can be made. Composting is another area that the wider community can become involved in. In the area of resource efficiencies rainwater harvesting will save water and funds for the community. The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Putting a plan in place on controlling litter in the village and changing the mind-set of the community can be challenging. If the bins are being used for public dumping it is better to reduce them in number. Encouraging all members of the community in particular the school children is important and creates awareness on zero tolerance to litter. On day of adjudication the litter bin at Heritage and Genlogy centre was overflowing. There are areas of untidiness and if addressed would greatly enhance the overall tidiness of the village. Landscaped beds need weeding. Grass growth at kerbs was also noted. While we do not recommend using herbicides on weeds if sprayed at the early stages of growth it would go unnoticed and not leave a burned look. Spraying near rivers is not recommended. The bring bank was tidy on day of adjudication.

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

Well done to the residents on the work that is done on the presentation of houses for this year's competition. The Housing areas have well maintained green areas and nice entrances. Killdalogue Heights are commended on winning best estate 2013. The traditional houses of the town were admired and the more modern build blended in well to create a superb streetscape. The gardens were bright and colourful and the hanging baskets and window boxes brought colour to the village. Well done to all residents for their work in this year's competition.

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

The approach roads starting at Elphin which had a superb Welcome to Strokestown sign had encroaching foliage. The 50KM and school signs need cleaning and painting. The Westport entrance has nice green area with nice landscaping but some weeding was needed here. At Longford Road entrance there is a lovely landscaped area that needs attention. There was a clutter of signs in this area and the road surface is very uneven. On approach roads there are lovely mature trees and stone walls. The village has great potential to progress in the competition. Well done on your work for this year.