

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane** Ref: **368**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **306**
Category: **E** Date(s): **26/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	53	53
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35	36
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	299	306

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Clane is welcomed to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition for 2017. Thank you for your application and copy of you plan. Your committee of 16 members together with volunteers are working diligently to develop and enhance the town. You work closely with Kildare County Council and all other agencies and businesses who provide support and assistance to you on whatever projects you undertake. Communication to the wider community is varied. You are fortunate to have a community magazine that includes your notes and diary of events regularly and this is disseminated to the community. Social media is another key means of communicating and making the community aware of your projects and activities. Well done on your achievements to date since entering the competition. The competition has helped to motivate and create an awareness among the community instilling a greater sense of pride in their area. Flying the Tidy Town's flag on the abbey tower to highlight events is a novel idea.

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

There is a lot of work being negotiated with the County Council to improve the buildings along the streetscape of the town. Some of the items mentioned in your application under this heading fit more into resource management. It is positive that there is a take up of units with new businesses opening up along the main street and elsewhere. Your treatment of buildings not occupied is commended. Heritage sites around the town are well cared for and it is good that the community can learn more about these sites through organised talks on the local heritage. The Main Street has prime located buildings including the fine building of the community centre and the grounds of the Abbey. This is enhanced by the stone built bed of begonias at front and enhanced more by the perennial planting along the wall. The old school 1839-1930 and Jones Bar with the "J" slightly faded was noted and admired. Jas Manzor was bright and colourful from the floral displays that adorned this building. The Parade Ring bar was also admired. The new notice board on Main Street is in a prime location for the community to keep informed of any activities that may be of interest to them. An –Tea-Cue-Café looked every bit a winner of the best presented premises award 2016.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There are many areas of good planting that is bee and bird friendly noted around the town and this type of planting is recommended by the Tidy Towns unit. The planting along at the playground is excellent. This type of planting is less work for groups around watering and is also more cost effective. The roundabouts were also admired and it is good that SuperValu are supporting you in this area. The housing estates too have good planting of hedging and native trees at the entrances and through the estates. Do ensure that trees are monitored after planting and stakes and ties checked regularly. Any dead trees should be removed and replaced if possible. An example of this is at Esmonde Avenue where trees have recently been planted and some trees here need attention.

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

Clane has many areas of wildlife habitats and amenities such as walkways along the river where the wildlife can be appreciated. It is encouraging to note that you organise walks and talks with the schools and the community to create an awareness and appreciation of the wildlife that exists in their midst. Well done to Scoil Padraig on constructing and distributing nest boxes through the community. It is also good that the boxes are monitored and findings recorded. Too often groups erect bird and bat boxes and are not aware if the boxes are even used. The bees are certainly making a comeback in Clane with new hives been installed and more of the community getting involved in bee-keeping. Having sampled and enjoyed some of your walks there is one section at Alexandra Bridge that could be developed more. The bridge could be enhanced more by some planting and the use of weed killer was noted which is not recommended so close to water. Cutting back of encroaching vegetation on the path making it more safe and accessible for walkers is the preferred option. The wildlife boards which were admired give excellent information on wildlife native to Clane. You are doing good work in this whole area and your plans for the future look exciting, which will be welcomed in next year's application.

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

This is an area that needs more work to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites. Now with the emphasis on waste being charged by weight it will become an even greater issue. Your group is doing excellent work in the whole area of recycling and this is positive. Resource management of water and energy is also been addressed. Reducing the number of plastic bags been used is also good and the businesses have to be commended on this. Well done to the Schools on their achievements in the Green School Initiative. The knowledge the schools have gained from this will help the community around the whole area on how savings can be made and waste reduced. Segregation of litter picks is also a good way of reusing and recycling. The transforming of old tyres into flower planters is also a good way of reusing material what would otherwise be waste into something useful.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The town has a good plan in place in creating an awareness among the community on the importance of keeping the town clean. National Spring clean sets the ball rolling. Segregation of all litter collected is also a good means of ensuring only waste that cannot be recycled or reused goes to landfill. Controlling litter is a constant task that cannot happen without the entire community getting involved. Getting residents to take care of their own stretch of road is a good way of getting more people involved. The recycling banks at SuperValu were neat and clean. Dog fouling stencils along the footpaths creates an awareness among dog walkers of their responsibility in the community while walking their pets. The town was generally tidy. Cut grass at Tesco roundabout looked untidy. Headless poles should be removed and some bins need cleaning.

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

The residents of Clane have great pride in their homes and also the town where they live. The houses along the streetscape and on approach roads although of different build all blended together creating a charming vista to the streetscape. The neat well maintained gardens together with colourful hanging baskets and window boxes bring colour to the street. The housing estates visited were all presented to a high standard with good entrances, well mown green areas and nice planting of hedging and native trees. Perennial planting that gives all year round colour and interest was noted at some of the estates. Esmonde Avenue was visited and new landscaping and footpaths were noted. The trees here need attention. Well done on the estate competitions that are run annually. The winners are to be commended on the presentation of the estates and indeed to all the residents for their ongoing work in maintaining their homes to such a high standard. The playground was visited and its location is magical with the river, trees and superb landscaping enhancing this lovely corner of Clane.

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

Prosperous approach road was well presented. Mature trees and good landscaping were admired. The well maintained school buildings and their landscaped grounds bring great colour to this approach road. Sallins road had a superb entrance sign, lovely hedging and neat verges and splendid landscaping. Alexander Bridge could be highlighted more. The remaining approach roads have neat verges, excellent trees and hedging. Road surfaces are generally good with a lot of work completed on approach roads including cycle tracks and footpaths in the last year.

Concluding Remarks:

Clane was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. Well done on the work you have completed for this year. Keep up the good work.