

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane** Ref: **368**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **313**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	53	54
Streetscape & Public Places	50	37	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	36	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>313</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Clane Claonadh chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Clane Tidy Towns is very welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2018, your 45th year entering Tidy Towns. Thank you for your very comprehensive entry and submission prepared for this year's Competition. The map included with your submission was very clear and with the numbered key and legend, assisted greatly in the adjudication of your town. The Multi-Year Plan Summary also provides a useful indication of your plans for the future development of your Town, based on a more holistic overall vision dealing with the Town as a whole, rather than individual proposals for specific sites – this is a very worthwhile approach. The Public Realm Planning Initiative and your liaison with the SEAI and the An Taisce climate change mentor fits in with this idea and will enable the delivery of a more comprehensive and sustainable vision for the future of your Town. You have an active Committee of 16 members and an approximate number of 15 volunteers who turn out to work on various projects. Meetings are held every 2-3 weeks during the summer months with reduced frequency during the Winter. You have dedicated outreach meetings where you engage with local businesses, schools and Community Groups. Your volunteers provide a significant level of commitment to the work of Tidy Towns and are actively engaged in various Tidy Towns tasks on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. You receive considerable support from Kildare County Council, local businesses and community/wildlife and angling organisations. The activities of Clane Tidy Towns are publicised through the Le Chéile Clane Community Magazine, parish newsletter and local newspapers and you make use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter to highlight key events. It is good that you have a dedicated Schools Liaison Officer on your Committee to engage with the Green Schools Committees in the three local schools. It is heartening to note that many of the suggestions made by Clane Tidy Towns members have been taken into account in the preparation Local Area Plan for the Town- well done to all concerned with this great planning work.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

It is noted that you have made significant inputs into the Public Realm Plan organised by Kildare County Council under this category and has been a main focus for the Committee this year. This kind of engagement will yield significant benefits for the Town in the longer run, although it will not be a quick fix. It is good to note that a new parking scheme has been introduced on Main Street to improve accessibility to the business premises here. Well done on the provision of an electric car charge point as part of this scheme - we need more of these in our towns. Unoccupied premises are becoming a blight in many rural towns and it is good to note that there is an increased take-up of units with new businesses in Clane. Clane has retained its traditional style streetscape. One feels however that the vista down Main Street would be enhanced with additional tree planting. Trees with a fastigate growth habit are recommended for planting on narrow streets in towns and villages. The 13th Century Franciscan friary was visited and the information provided on site in relation to this important heritage property was very

interesting and informative. Perhaps the heritage and tourism potential of this site could be further exploited. The Abbey Community Centre and garden which enjoy a prominent location overlooking the Town were visited and the Clane wall of fame was particularly admired. The garden was very well maintained and presented and the red oak tree towards the middle of the site was a highlight here. There is a very old mediaeval altar-like structure in the grounds of the Community Centre which would benefit from some protection from the weather and a sign explaining it's significance would also be worthwhile. Many of the premises along Main Street are presented to a high standard including the Parade Ring with it's attractive floral displays. The presentation of a number of shopfronts however, may require further examination and improvement such as at Macari's Diner, New Peking Takeaway and Drive In Dry Cleaners. The Clane Community Noticeboard on the Main Street was positively noted and provided information on Tidy Towns activities, a Golf Classic and Clane Athletics Club – this is a very important local resource. The Jones's Bar frontage looked very well although a new Irish flag is needed here. The frontage of Flowerz by Amanda provided a real splash of colour and was greatly admired. The Roman Catholic Church and St Bridget's School were very well presented and it is good to see overhead wires removed. The very heavy traffic in the village was particularly intrusive in relation to the comfort of pedestrians and one wondered were there any future plans for an extension of an Inner Relief road in Clane to reduce through traffic on the Main Street. There was an issue with unsightly advertising hoardings located on the gable of buildings such as at Dr. Mobile Phone and at Grogan's Solicitors. Scoil Bhride has a neat hedge along the road which enhanced this area. Scoil Mhuire School was well presented as was Scoil Phádraig, although the white fence here needs painting.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

It is good to note you have been awarded funding for engaging a consultant to formulate a long-term landscaping plan for the Town to include tree planting, hard landscaping, street furniture and proposed colour schemes. This will feed into your Public Realm Planning Process and will provide a strong basis and rationale for seeking funding for future improvements. You have also been involved in a wide range of other projects this year under this category including a Biodiversity Garden Trail in conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association, provision of planters on Main Street, the purchase of an edging machine to improve grass maintenance along the Inner Relief Road and renovation of various flower beds. The area along the stream and children's playground park was visited and was maintained to a high standard and this area is very well used by the general public. The water quality in the stream appeared to be particularly good and a number of pied wagtails were noted feeding along here. Have you considered carrying out a crayfish survey on this stream? The GAA grounds at Conneff Park were visited and a significant improvement has been made to the entrance, with the completion of the new landscaping scheme here.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Liffeside Nature Park was visited and the 'Wild About Clane' wildlife signs are definitely a great addition providing wonderful information on the range of wild plants and animals found in the Park. This area was heavily planted with trees and it is wondered whether the Park entrance area might be a little bit too overgrown and secluded for any visitors walking alone. Perhaps some judicious pruning and clearing of vegetation along the paths might be carried out here in the interest of public safety. In addition, the footpaths in the Park are little bit rough and uneven and a tarmacadam of dust surface would improve accessibility here. The Biodiversity Garden Trail is a flagship project this year showcasing best practice for pollinator friendly maintenance. As part of Kildare Biodiversity Week you also held a 'Pollinator and Biodiversity in your Community' workshop and you have installed swift boxes on the new extension to Scoil Bhride and a dipper nest box at Alexandra Bridge.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

Well done to Abbey Park Residents Association who are working with Kildare County Council to install a community composter to deal with locally produced green waste in a sustainable manner. It is wonderful that Clane Tidy Towns are now engaging with SEAI Sustainable Communities to undertake improvements to the Abbey Community Centre and in the wider area. Clane Tidy Towns can lead the way in promoting sustainable energy usage and transport solutions in your community and the assistance of SEAI and the An Taisce Climate Change Mentor will be essential in this regard. The promotion of greater use of solar panels and insulation to reduce energy consumption in homes and buildings and thereby reduce CO2 emissions is a very important initiative to consider. Grants are now available from the Government to support these improvements and the Tidy Towns Committee can work to highlight these. Water conservation is also an important theme under this category and the use of water butts and rainfall harvesting/storage techniques to facilitate the watering of private gardens and public floral displays should also be encouraged. With regard to sustainable transport, it would be good to explore a pilot car-pooling initiative for the Town or perhaps consider plans for the development of a greenway/ blueway along the River Liffey, with dedicated cycle routes. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure should be expanded around the country and it is good that you have pushed for this as part of the proposed Nancy's Lane Development.

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

Your engagement with the Local GAA Club has resulted in a significant enhancement of the entrance to Conneff Park - the timber edging detail and low maintenance planting scheme was admired. It is good to note that a rationalisation of telegraph poles is under way on the Celbridge and Ballinagappa Roads to remove clutter here. The 'Lily White Spring Clean' was a very successful community event and well done to all involved who picked up a large quantity of litter and rubbish removed from local ditches and litter blackspots in the area. Have you considered any preventative measures to deal with the problem at this location such as targeting the dumping blackspots for CCTV monitoring. Your work with local Schools, Scoil Bhride and Scoil Phádraig is very important in creating an awareness amongst the schoolchildren that littering is unacceptable. Visually prominent advertising was noted on gables near the Country Market discount store.

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

It is noted that a re-organised 'Award Winning Estates' Competition and Awards Night were held in 2017 with a focus on broader issues other than litter, including pollinator friendly gardens, street tree management etc. – this will be very important in helping to maintain and improve the standard of presentation of estates into the future. An Crocán estate was well maintained and presented. At Abbey Court it is recommended that the evergreen hedge along the road should be replaced, as the individual hedge plants are a now dying and are unsightly, when viewed from the public road. The line of Rowan trees along the roadside margins at the entrance College Grove was greatly admired. No doubt there is a wonderful display of autumn colour here later in the year. The standard of maintenance on the open spaces was good. At Hillview Estate, the ESB Kiosk could be screened with some hedge planting. Otherwise this estate was maintained to a good standard. Abbey Park has a large open space within the estate which was well maintained and presented. Alexandra Park was visited and it was good to note that it is possible to gain access to the River Liffey Park from the open space which is situated along the river. The residents in Clane are to be commended for their ongoing efforts and the generally very high standard of maintenance and presentation of their estates.

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

The new edging machine acquired to assist in the maintenance of grass verges on the approaches to the Town has made a significant impact on the general standard of presentation. The approach to Clane along the Sallins Road was well maintained and presented. At the Sallins Road Roundabout the specimen tree in the centre of the roundabout with colourful underplanting enhanced this area. Unfortunately, due to recent drought conditions grassed areas have adopted a very burnt look. The new Aldi Store is attractively designed and landscaped and generally enhances it's surrounds and the approaches to the Town. Along the Prosperous Road, the road markings and surfaces are good, although some roadside advertising is very prominent and detracts from this area. The planting scheme on the Celbridge Road Roundabout is similar to that on the Sallins Road and was equally, greatly admired.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You are wished well with all the future plans for the sustainable development of Clane and with the support of the local Community, there is no doubt significant improvements can be made in the short to medium term.