

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**
County: **Galway** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	34
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	17	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33	34
TOTAL MARK	450	244	248

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the filled up entry form, map and plan and you are very welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

The nine committee members are getting through a lot of work in attending the meetings and looking after the presentation of your lovely hamlet. Good support is forthcoming from Galway County Council, CES, Respond Housing Association and Stone Company Ltd.

The local people are well informed of your plans and activities and this leads to a cohesive approach to achieve a common goal. The contacts with the school are worthwhile and you could assist them when you can notably in the green flag programmes.

It is pleasing to find that you manage to keep the village looking attractive and regular improvements are made from participating in the competition.

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

The small church nestles peacefully with a nice exterior wall that will shortly need attention to its paintwork. I admired the statue across from the church and felt that it could be great to paint the vestments blue and white. The school on the Balliasloe road is well maintained with pleasing landscaping, and the green flag proudly flies outside. Your community centre is beautiful and a credit to the people of Lawrencetown. The shop at the corner is well kept and tidy and it appeared that the post office was closed down. Diarmuid and Grainne statues are pleasant features.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

I admired the little community garden with flowers and shrubs growing very well with potentilla, polygonum and bay prominent. It also contains potatoes, rhubarb, onions and fruit bushes, and here also we liked the nice beech hedging.

For the most part this entire area needs little intervention as lots of it is a typical rural setting. The small square at the corner has the traditional water pump that is a great historical feature and we admired nice flower beds and trees. There are lots of mature trees all around and we are pleased to find that more young trees are planted. Good quality landscaping is enjoyable on the road going up to the school and there is an impressive tree lined grass margin on the right hand side going towards Ballinasloe.

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

I paid a visit to Lisheen Graveyard and was pleased with its presentation with nice boundary walls and old fashioned stiles, and the mausoleum is a great historical structure. The passageway is maintained in good condition and

makes for comfort for the pedestrians. This is a haven for wildlife with a variety of birds singing and twirping merrily in the native hedgerows. The old well is a reminder of a bygone day and the seating in the green there provides a perfect place for relaxation. Unfortunately some empty alcohol bottles were dumped over the side of the lovely small bridge, and this behaviour is now a feature of modern Irish society and is not restricted to your lovely hamlet.

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

The recycling centre is spotlessly clean. The EU Waste Management Hierarchy is elimination, reduction, reuse, recycle and there are many ways of doing all of this. Carrying out some sort of waste awareness survey or distributing a questionnaire would give people a starting point in terms of waste prevention. Groups can take many steps to reduce the level of resources used and become more efficient at using materials, while at the same time reducing waste generation. Bulk buying and avoiding disposable products, using local libraries and repairing goods are all ways of being more resource efficient. With the children involved in the excellent green schools initiatives we can study what they are doing in the schools and carry it forward ourselves. All the trees have huge amounts of leaves in the autumn / winter and most of this could be collected and composted. Composting is the way forward and you could further educate the people on how best to do this, by for instance, holding a workshop that demonstrates that to achieve the best results we must mix green kitchen waste with brown waste like hedge clippings, and also by turning it occasionally; more information is available on this from the county council. Compost reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, and produces good material for the vegetable and flower gardens, plus it cuts down on spending money on such like material.

The collection of scrap metal from householders such as old steel beds, wheelbarrows, bicycles, gates, galvanised iron etc and bringing it to central point could earn money for your activities as there are plenty registered dealers in scrap metal who could buy it from you, and reduce the risk of it being thrown in ditches etc.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are complimented for the presentation of your area in great condition and on adjudication day there was no litter visible. A few galvanised iron shed roofs need attention but these are private property and there is not a lot that you can do. The local people show a distinct pride in their place to keep it in such great condition for themselves and for the huge volume of passing traffic.

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

There are some lovely town style houses and some displayed nice window boxes of flowers. A number of other houses around the area are splendid with the ones going out past the church in wonderful condition and most picturesque. The county council housing estate was presented in an orderly condition.

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

There is good car parking facilities at the community centre. We admired wonderful traditional stone walls in Lawrencetown with a beauty across from the school on the Balliasloe road. Road surfaces are good with clean and distinct signage and markings. The footpaths are comfortable for the pedestrians with a long stretch on the Eyrecourt road leading up to the school.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted with the condition of your village and congratulations for your great achievements.