

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**
County: **Galway** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	34	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	248	259

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Lawrencetown is welcome to the 2016 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your application with map and details of future planned projects, we wish you every success for its implementation. It is good to note the range of groups and statutory bodies with which the committee works and indeed in the whole area of community development. The range of communication methods from traditional to digital is healthy also. It was a real pleasure to visit your village, we value your continued participation.

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

The church premises has significant visual appeal and the hall with its flowering shrubs within the car park also looks well. The school looks reasonably well too. The HSE premises enjoys good maintenance as does the Community Hall. Hopefully the plastic neon fascia sign of the Foodmarket/Newsagent will be replaced upon redevelopment and improvements made to the Beautiful Bird premises. Pardy's Lounge Bar looks quite well. The Thermosol premises could improve both its roof and its parking area. Well done on work achieved for this year's competition.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The sculpture was admired yet again this year and nicely complemented by the polished granite picnic table and seat. Container Flower displays were colourful and profuse and complement permanent planting. The landscaped area around the water pump is a strong visual amenity. The recently planted hedgerow and trees will enhance biodiversity as the mature. Grassed areas are being beautifully maintained and the picnic site is a nice touch.

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

Work accomplished for Bog Walks together with walks within the environs of the village is invaluable for the recreational amenity status of Laurencetown. The installation of an information panel on the flora and fauna of the walks within the village centre would be an added bonus. The management of both burial grounds is also impressive. Perhaps school children could take on a project under the National Pollination Plan for next year's competition. Be aware also of invasive species, check if these are present and if so get expert advice on their management. Your adjudicator also finds rookeries and the associated 'disturbance' an exciting event.

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

The recycling point is being neatly managed, the working relationship with Galway Co Co is fruitful in this respect. The Community Garden development is noted favourably, there is something very satisfying in growing your own

flowers from seeds . Well done to the school children for their work in the Green Schools program, the community is indebted to them. Log onto the EPA's new web site livegreen.ie for more ideas on green living and competing successfully under this heading. The liaison with the wind farm project manager is excellent.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is excellent in Laurencetown, the Springtime Community Clean - up has obviously raised awareness and the regular Monday litter patrols are effective; no doubt litter is segregated for recycling. Try to maintain all stretches of kerb free of weed growth. Work accomplished for the Gate Lodge is acknowledged. Overhead service cables which diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape are noted. All involved in the National Spring Clean are to be commended. It is good to note the absence of posters on poles. Congratulations on the demolition of the derelict building.

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

The small residential development features nicely grassed areas to boundary walls and well painted boundaries in some instances. Some townhouses are beautifully painted to their roadside facade. The entrance to the Castle Lawns estate is nicely landscaped, some of the internal dividing walls within the estate are a little weather stained and would look better if planted with the climbing plant. Difficulties with vacant properties are acknowledged however congratulations on work achieved to date in this regard. No doubt the two new dwellings under construction will be presented to the same high standard prevailing in Laurencetown currently.

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

The canopy of trees on one entrance to the village is appealing with its dappled light and rays of sunshine. Where possible natural stone walls should be refurbished and highlighted as a handsome feature of the village. Nameplates, Fialte stones and other road signage look well in general however the finger post at the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary could be cleaned and one on the Ballinasloe Road needs refurbishment. Try to have field gates painted a similar themed colour. All elements of the Ballinasloe approach and entrance to the village have a well-managed appearance.

Concluding Remarks:

Laurencetown is a charming village and a visit is amply rewarded, we look forward to many more adjudications.