

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Lawrencetown - An Baile Mór Shiol Anmchadha</b>	Ref: <b>199</b>
County: <b>Galway</b>	Mark: <b>288</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>17/06/2019</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	40
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	27	28
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>288</b>

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

Cuireann and moltóir seo fáilte roimh Lawrencetown – An Baile Mór páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhar 2019. Thank you for sending us your completed entry form, information on your plans and work in progress. It is many years since this adjudicator judged the village and many changes have occurred since. Your entry illustrates a great deal of projects and convinces us of your sustained commitment to your village and to the competition. Your strategy of holding community meetings quarterly is praiseworthy as this ensures all residents have an opportunity to know what is going on and it also offers an opportunity for people to make new suggestions. However, we must admit that you are strong on aspirations and while we applaud this we are confined to appraising you on the work that has been done. Your focus groups interests extend beyond just Tidy Towns and include health and fitness, parent and youth etc., this is commendable. Your list of associates makes interesting reading and covers a multitude of interests, so well done. Could we suggest a simpler A3 map for next year, something similar to the Heritage Trail map. Having to refer back and forth each time we wish to locate a project is confusing for an adjudicator. At a minimum do identify various locations on one side of the map.

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

Our visit was favoured with a fine afternoon which enabled us to visit your many projects and places of interest. The village looked really well and our first impression was one of colour and neatness. Your information signs are excellent, especially the two beside the community hall. These play an important role in giving information to the stranger. The amount of historic information is serving you and your visitors well. Well done on the treatment of the unoccupied house on the Portumna entrance. Our visit to the church was much enjoyed and has been recently painted. The inside was of interest to this scribe and we like the two stained windows flanking the altar. The green is your strong point and maintenance here is very good. The before and after photos illustrate the work that has been done here. Your heritage trail is an important illustration of your work and will serve you well in the future. We picked up your village heritage trail brochure in the local shop and enjoyed it very much. Do ensure you send it each year with your entry form as it contains interesting points for future adjudicators.

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

You are fortunate to have a green in such a location as it presents a positive image for the village and is so accessible to all. We like the many attractive features which you have created. Your policy of planting perennial self seeding flowers is commendable and will give good results for the increase in pollinators. Your negotiations with the ESB have proved beneficial. We hope the seven trees you received from Galway Co. Co, will be replanted in the autumn. The works carried out on the green since 2018 have earned you increased marks for the current year. The

plethora of containers, window boxes and hanging baskets further enhance the attractions of the Green. Well done to the farming community for painting their farm gates. Do continue with this policy and extend if feasible. Our visit to the community garden was a treat and we got a full appreciation of the work involved from the volunteer gardener. This is real gem and the array of flowers has created an abundance of pollinators. The garden location needs improved signage. This is a matter for yourselves whether you wish to attract large numbers of visitors or not. We note you plan extra work on the pollinator bed and this will enhance the performance of the appropriate plants.

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

Your entry form illustrated a good understanding of what is required in this category. We have seen evidence of good practice in this category and the no mow areas within the village and approach roads are obvious and praiseworthy. We would be interested in reading the new biodiversity plan for the new school development. Your description of the newly biodiversity hotspots makes interesting reading. On the day it was not feasible for this adjudicator to follow the route listed in your application but we accept the merit of the project.

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

Your close association with the SEAI is commendable and beneficial no doubt. Indeed your ability to access funding for your various projects is to your credit and long may it continue. Attending the Tidy Towns workshop in Claregalway Hotel provides opportunity to meet with other TT centres and will benefit all associated with your efforts. We liked the water harvesters at the school and elsewhere. We feel this policy could be extended to all available residents, especially in the housing estates. Well done on your compost bins. We were delighted to find the Green Flag at the school, always an adjudicator's delight as it signals great work by pupils and teachers alike: ard mholadh. The achievement of a 7th flag is excellent. When you finish the MUGA development we would urge you to develop a sizable new school garden as part of the development. This would add significantly to the overall development of the project and enable you to increase the scope of the school activities in the category. We commend you and your ambition to install an electric charging unit. Would this unit be better placed in the village centre as it would be an attraction for passing traffic and would not rely on the new school car park? Your intention to promote the reduction of plastic bottles for drinking use is a step forward. We hope you will be successful in your endeavor.

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

You have scored well again this year in this category. The village was clean and tidy on adjudication day. The annual Spring Clean is one of the great litter control projects of recent years. It also serves as a seasonal start up for many centres and communities. We were surprised to note that some truck and car parking is leading to the spread of litter. Some centres prefer not to place any litter bins at parking places as they lead to the disposal of 'home' litter. However we notice that all motor way parking areas for litter collection are a common feature. You are probably best placed to make a decision on this suggestion. The amount of volunteers involved in your spring clean up is exceptional and deserves great praise. Thermasol building (now closed we assume) on the approach from Portumna is in need of a clean up. Could the weeds be removed for next year?

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

We visited the housing estate on the bog road. This estate needs a bilingual name plate which will improve their identity. Houses here are well presented but some would benefit from fresh painting on the boundary walls. Is there a close connection with the housing estate and the village centre? There are several single houses with superb gardens and entrance gates. There is a splendid house far out on the Corrib approach which deserves special praise. Do you have a local garden/estate competition for residents? The Castlelawns housing estate needs improved presentation. Are the residents involved in your efforts?

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

We have been familiar with the Portumna approach for many years and the attractive mature trees on this approach never fail to impress us. Indeed this approach might, with planning, be replicated on other approaches. We really admired the village approach signs on each approach which are embellished with attractive landscaping. We would urge you not to ignore the stone approach signs erected some years ago. These now require fresh presentation by painting the text inscription. This also applies to the Diarmaid agus Gráinne statue. We did try to locate the Bog road board walk project but failed to find any sign, despite travelling some distance out from the housing estate. We suggest a new finger road sign for the Clonfert approach, not to be relying on the existing brown and white sign. The yellow and white Newsagents sign on the Portumna approach should be removed as soon as possible.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a great delight to visit Lawrencetown and witness the great changes since our last visit. There is a healthy air of progress here and your many plans augur well for the future of this village. Your comprehensive entry form illustrated your positive commitment to your own place. Go n-néirí libh amach anseo.