

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **244**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2014**

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

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Lawrencetown is very welcome to the 2014 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form. Thank you also for the comprehensive schedule of works undertaken since September 2013. All involved are commended for their commitment and efforts on behalf of the entire community. We were very aware from the schedule of activities that each and every month has seen events and activities undertaken which are germane to Tidy Towns. Well done to all involved.

It is now appropriate to review the Tidy Towns plan 2011-2014 and establish the priorities for the next 3 years. The projects selected need to pass the stringent test of attainability, can they be achieved having regard to the resources of finance, materials, equipment and manpower to which you have access. Devise a series of projects, next identify the agencies or organisations that can help in their achieving and make early contact to ascertain their willingness to get involved. Finally set a start and finish date for each major project.

Tidy Towns cannot operate in a vacuum so it is worthwhile to explore what aid and assistance is available from the other clubs, organisations and agencies active in your area. Your village is a planned one of great charm, interest indeed fascination. The entry to the village underneath the enthralling over mantel of elegant trees is a delight. The wide avenue like road by the church was very well maintained and we admired greatly the raised flowerbeds. The village is now on the sign posted cycling routes which will help to ensure a bigger throughput of visitors in the coming months and years. A number of houses within the village have yet to secure occupiers.

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

The entrance gates to the former castle are an imposing element on the approach road. The Health Centre was well presented, the small Post Office looked well and we admired the Beautiful Bird bar with its attractive arch light over the door. Please replace the missing letters in the name. The Catholic Church was colourful and well presented as was the substantial community hall opposite. The national school was neat and orderly. Is it taking part in the Green Flag programme? Pardy's Lounge Bar was colourful. The substantial Community Enterprise Centre some distances from the village proper was admired.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

The Diarmaid and Grainne Statue by Reaney was greatly admired and as was the well presented area in which they are located. The mini gardens here tended by individual households looked well. There was excellent planting at the Community Garden. There is only small difficulty with a few weeds outside curbs and this impact is limited and adds greatly to the overall neatness of the village presentation. We admire also the flowerbeds and the splendid new

modern sculpture at the top of the village.

The Mausoleum in its setting is a most interesting project. Sadly it is increasingly subjected to damage by encroaching vegetation. Is there an appetite within the village to organise a work party to protect it for posterity? The seating along the walk to the cemetery is a great addition and this facility is a significant plus for the village. We admired particularly the area near the Old Forge and the remnants of the well once associated with that activity in the past.

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

We were welcomed by a brief encounter with a squirrel on arriving in the village. The bird box and feeders are a delight. As mentioned the pathway to the Cemetery along by the small river and forge is a delight and provides many opportunities for wildlife development. We noted the feeder and box in the amenity area around the "Star Crossed Lovers". A number of schools have seen it is worthwhile to set aside a small part of their grounds for a nature reserve in which bird boxes and even bat boxes would be positioned. Undoubtedly gardening is a skill and interest once acquired that will become a lifelong activity providing pleasure, enjoyment and benefit to the participants and the wider community.

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

The central theme of this category is to invite the community at large to examine ways and means they can best utilise scarce resources to the optimum. Your use of the rainwater collected from the roof of the sheds beside the Community Garden for watering the plants is precisely the sort of creative thinking invited. Would the school cooperate with a survey at individual household level comparing the amount of food purchased with that actually consumed? Surveys elsewhere have suggested that up to one third of food purchased is not consumed and represents an absolute waste to the household. The local authority or through an agency they can suggest may be willing to stage a meeting to discuss these aspects in a public forum in the village. Composting is a valuable service and leaves and fresh grass are particularly fruitful when mixed. However grass cannot be stored so it is necessary firstly to gather the leaves in autumn and then mix those with the fresh cut grass of spring and early summer. The resulting compost is extremely valuable and nutritious.

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

The related activities of litter control and tidiness have been amalgamated this year into one composite category. Compliments on the total absence of litter throughout the village. In common with every village you have a number of houses awaiting occupiers and there is an abandoned house on Summerset Road. The village generally is neat and orderly but the now no longer required plastic sign at Curly's ought to with advantage be removed.

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

Houses throughout the village were very well presented and a number featured colourful window boxes. We admired the grey well painted house with window boxes and a delightful arch light over the front door. A range of fine houses were encountered from the Community Hall to the junction of Eyrecourt, Bangher Road. The housing estate on the Summerset Road was well presented and a number of householders have made commendable efforts in their gardens.

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

The impact of the approach from Portumna is thoroughly awesome with flickering sunlight through the overhanging trees. The 50kph signs were clean and neat but the poles would benefit from washing and repainting. The Summerset Road had an amount of weeds outside the curb and again while the speed limit signs themselves were fine their poles would need attention. We admired the Lawrencetown 'Failte' signs on the approach roads. Your constant strimming on approach roads has added greatly to the overall presentation.

Compliments to all who have assisted in this year's fine presentation.