

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lawrencetown** Ref: **199**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **280**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	38	39
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>280</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Lawrencetown An Baile Mór Shíol Anmchadha chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Many thanks for your application form, which was clearly laid out and illustrated with excellent photos. Indicating new, maintenance and future projects is very helpful. The accompanying map is very attractive but not great for navigating around the village as an adjudicator as it's not drawn to scale and this year's projects were not marked on the map. A hand-drawn map based on this one might work better for next year and you can note where the projects are located. The application form is well-written but included some extra information that wasn't required. Please focus on describing your new, maintenance and future projects with minimal background information. Lawrencetown has the potential to be a strong contender in the competition and these comments will improve your application for next year. Lawrencetown Tidy Towns has a large committee with a big group of volunteers who support your work. You liaise with a wide range of organisations and individuals; and receive financial support for a variety of sources. You communicate with your committee using a range of methods, which is a good idea. It's great to read that the local school are an integral part of your Tidy Towns work. This will benefit the school as well as the local community. It is obviously a vibrant and hard-working school if they are on their 7th Green Flag, which represents a huge amount of work. It's great to hear also that you have a Junior Tidy Towns group. The benefits of participation in the Tidy Towns competition is well stated in your application.

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

The new playground is certainly a flagship project and one to be very proud of. The playground itself is lovely but it is also very well situated with parking nearby. This is fantastic amenity for the village. The visitor heritage trail could also be described as a flagship project. The trail has many interesting features and the information signs are excellent. It is possibly one of the best heritage trail projects that I've seen to date. I called into the shop to get a copy of the brochure, which is attractive and informative. It is desirable to remove the ESB pole and overhead wires from the Village Green but this is a long-term project and hopefully you can negotiate on the costs. It's good to hear that your proposal for improved school parking etc. I look forward to seeing the restored Gothic Folly. I'm delighted to read that you have sought expert advice from a Conservation Architect. There are many interesting heritage buildings and features in Lawrence Town, as outlined on the Heritage Trail. The two pubs are very well-presented, Pardy's and The Beautiful Bird, as is the small shop which had nice flowers out front. The HSE building could be enhanced with some planters. At the moment it doesn't look very inviting. The Community Centre is also well-presented.

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

There are many planters, window boxes and flower beds around the village adding colour and life. The planters in the playground are nice. You might include more perennials in the future, in the playground and planting schemes elsewhere, and increase the number of pollinator-friendly plants. Perennials can provide structure as well as colour and many are good for pollinators. As you don't need to replant every year they are more environmentally-friendly and cheaper in the long run. There are some nice examples in the Community Garden. The boundary wall of the playground is well-screened on the outside of the playground and you could consider planting shrubs/climbers on the inside of the wall to soften the look of the concrete wall. The new rose bed should mature well over time. Roses can be high maintenance which could be worth thinking about if you are planning to plant more rose beds. The hedge on the Lisheen Walk is well-maintained.

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

The Community Garden is another asset for the community and for wildlife. It's great to keep children involved in the maintenance of flower beds around the village. Begonias add a splash of colour but they offer nothing for wildlife. You might consider reducing the amount of summer bedding you use.

The biodiversity signage is of a very high standard. You are lucky to have the services of a local ecologist. The two biodiversity events you organised sound great. Events and activities are just as important as doing projects. You could run an event on the bog walk every year. Maybe organise a dawn chorus walk next year during Biodiversity Week? You have several potential routes. It's great to hear you are recording your pollinator actions and have entered for the pollinator award. Trees are a feature of the village and maybe you could do a project on trees with the school children? The teachers and children in Laurencetown National School have been working on lots of nature and wildlife projects, which is to be highly commended. Maybe include a summary of your biodiversity plan next year.

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

You have been busy in this category and list a large number of projects. It's good to keep promoting the importance of waste reduction and sustainable resource use. Showing reusing/ upcycling examples is a good idea e.g. the wellie planters. You could take this further by organising a furniture or clothes upcycling workshop as well as the Reduce Food Waste workshop you mention. You are promoting good practice at home and in the school, which is great. Have you any way of measuring the success of your efforts to reduce waste? Again the school have been very active in this area.

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

Annual Spring Cleans are a great way to collect large amounts of rubbish and to involve the wider community. You also run regular litter patrols and encourage people to take home their own litter from the playground. Involving young people is a great idea and you have taken an innovative approach here. The bring bank area was tidy on adjudication day and very little litter was seen around the village.

Reducing overhead wires is very desirable and you are making progress in this area by removing one redundant pole. The overall appearance of the village is very tidy with the well-maintained green spaces, well-presented houses, lack of fly-posting and clutter. Well done to the school community for their efforts.

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

There are many well-presented houses and attractive houses in and around the village. Pride of Place is very evident in Laurencetown. The Gate Lodge looks well after painting.

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

There is some attractive planting on the approach roads to Laurencetown. As I said above, you might review and include more perennials in future. It's good to maintain successful projects like 'Adopt a Bed'. It's important to spread the load in terms of work. Daffodils and narcissus will add a splash of colour in spring. I would recommend planting bulbs only within the village where they are more likely to thrive. There are lovely hedgerows, stone walls and trees on the approach roads.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a real pleasure to visit Laurencetown for the first time.