

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville** Ref: **734**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **257**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	37
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29	29
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	48
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>257</b>

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

Welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2015. We have noted that your committee of 12 people hold many meetings throughout the year including three public meetings and have strong links with residents, voluntary groups and schools. You receive support from many local businesses and public bodies and we were even surprised that you have links with Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee in Co. Clare. The use of Facebook, local parish newsletter, newspaper.etc., are your means of communication and you also avail of the public library. You have many schools in your community and the involvement there is commendable. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and the inclusion of some photographs throughout the application. May we ask that next time please provide more information on the one page project list which is indicated on the map? That would greatly assist the adjudicator and reduce the need to continuously refer to the material in the application. We note the 3 year plan (2015 – 2017), it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years.

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

Charleville is a large town and you have much to show in the form of important buildings. Charleville Park Hotel building and boundary were in good condition and we enjoyed the small floral displays at the entrance. The Lidl premises and car park were in very good condition. The car dealerships of Renault, Ford and Nissan all looked well but a line of trees such as at Lidl would add enhancement. Further on, the houses on the right looked well and an entrance on the left needs painting and weeding. Charlene is sitting on the corner of an open space that needs improvement. We suggest that a landscape plan be devised to incorporate the larger site; it would enhance the approach. The Kerry Group near the Garden of Remembrance was well landscaped with trees and flowers. A hedge here would help to screen the yard at the side and rear. Fitzgerald Electrical was painted and tidy. The roof of the motor factors needs painting. The Fire Station looked fine. The Kerry offices on Newtownbarry Road looked fine. The IDA complex would benefit from more landscape treatment. McKeogh Motors had dirty signs. The Pavilion was well painted. On the corner of Broad Lane and Baker Street there are a few derelict houses. The rear of Dunne's Stores looks fine, also Have's Funeral home; some shrubs or climbing plants against the concrete would give it a lift. O'Malley's Funeral Home was also fine. St. Joseph's Foundation had a large car park in front that would benefit by some tree planting. The GAA complex looks neglected; it needs a facelift. A boundary hedge would also help. The Enterprise Centre was very colourful and neat. O'Shea's Hardware is well kept. St. Joseph's National School had a green flag. The Credit Union and the banks looked well in the town centre, especially the red bricked Bank of Ireland and the adjacent ivy clad building makes a good contrast. The convent is an impressive building. It was great to see some new uses for old buildings in the Main Street. Paving was generally good. The Flower Pot shop and Dillon's Florists are well decorated and the flowers greatly enhance the streetscape. The old church forecourt which is now a library has murals, seating and planting. The Republican monument and its flower

box was noted. We noted the fountain which was not working during our visit. The Holy Cross Catholic Church is a fine building with an impressive boundary wall and railing. The plant containers in the front were well planted. The rose beds inside the wall were also noted. The statue of Our Lady stood among the laurel and lavender. We noted the recently painted red seats at Supervalu. The Four Winds Pub was excellent as was the Amber Service Station

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

We liked the line of recently planted trees at Lidl. The garden of remembrance needs some maintenance. The seat and litter bin had weeds beneath them and they need cleaning. Capping on the boundary wall needs repair. The Kerry factory on Newtownbarry Road is a large industrial complex within the town. Part of its boundary contains mature specimens of trees and these help to soften the hard impact. We suggest that the rest of the boundary be treated in a similar fashion to enhance this section of Charleville. The grass in the CBS schools needs improved maintenance, the solitary tree could do with some company of more trees. We didn't see any green flags flying here. The cemetery gate and the wall need repair and painting. At O'Shea's Hardware, we suggest that trees be planted in the ground rather than the use of plant containers. The triangular site opposite O'Shea's and adjacent to the cemetery is an opportunity for a landscape scheme of a high standard. Mannix College has room for more tree planting. The Town Park and wildlife area had litter and debris and some weeds. A horse was grazing there. The playground was well used and trees here are well established. The maintenance was reasonable but the car park was a little untidy; it needs the boundary defined. A number of buildings in the town centre had hanging basket displays. The containers with trees in the town centre are not a good idea. Trees seldom live long in containers so it would be best to use them for shrubs, herbaceous or bedding plants. The ornamental pear trees and tree guards look excellent and enhance the streetscape. Hanging baskets with Petunias on poles were good quality. The tall concrete containers here are less successful and in any case it is advisable not to vary the container type in this situation- they add clutter.

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

We noted the actions under this heading such as the frog ponds completed in the wildlife section of the town park as well as the planting of 25 trees. We also note that you have some proposals for implementation in the coming year. We feel there is plenty of wildlife in the park, such as the *Sambucus nigra* (Elderberry) which was in flower during our visit; you just need to learn more about it promote it. This section is one that we suggest you can gain more marks with more effort. You have a rich natural area surrounding the town and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. List the plants and animals to be found in your natural environment and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This would be a very useful annual project for schools.

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

This category is becoming more and more important to highlight the need for communities to address the issues involved in tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. We note a number of actions under this heading that are very relevant. Top of the list is the success of St. Anne's School in achieving 4 green flags and St. Mary's School achieving 3 green flags. Well done to students and teachers for their efforts. Other include energy savings and water conservation, the WOW and WOF events, shredding old newspapers, battery recycling and bring banks for bottles and cans. There are a number of other measures that your town can take in regard to sustainability. Contact your waste contractors and try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note the recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition. In regard to water usage, self-watering hanging baskets are a help in reducing the amount of water used and also the task of watering. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. In response to an over use of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds. In that regard, it appears on Railway Road there was an overuse of weedkiller. In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase.

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

We note that the local scout unit is assisting you in doing regular clean-ups and the students from St. Mary's School undertook to clean weeds at the base of the school wall. Your participation in the anti-litter campaign is very important as we need to develop a culture of people who think twice before throwing anything away. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the street cleaner does an excellent job. The following issues were noted during our visit. Some graffiti on the town sign on the approach from Limerick was not inviting. There was a clutter of signage here as well. There are too many signs on the CPH fence. At the Council yard, the roof and the wall needs painting. Some weeds at the side of the GAA wall base were noted. There is waste material tipped inside the cemetery wall, unfortunately it is very conspicuous. Towards the end of Baker's Road there is an unsightly laneway opposite the cemetery. Much attention is needed here and in the adjacent residential complex. At the junction of Charter House

Road and the N20, tree stakes need to be removed from trees before they cause damage the tree stems, cable ties are still on poles and the Campus service station is unfortunately closed down. The ESB sub station is quite conspicuous and would benefit from more screening. The house on the opposite corner is derelict. The bollards in Main Street need cleaning. Some weeds were establishing around the litter bin, seat and plant container at the fountain.

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

A terrace of houses on Newtownbarry Road look well. Granary Court Terrace was clean and very well painted. Brindle Hill estate has attractive houses but the site at the entrance is awaiting development. It has a large open space but few trees and there is scope for planting shrubs, hedges or trees in private gardens. The County GAA complex near here has an impressive entrance which is well maintained but it is very hard in appearance and needs some softening with plants. Kennedy Place, DeValera Place and St. Brendan's Drive had nice finger post signs; the pole needs painting. There is scope for tree planting on the open space and the pathways there are incomplete. Some houses and gardens look well and some need improvement; we liked the roses in one garden. Oakfield estate with its line of lime trees at the entrance was very pleasant. Orchard Heights was also looking well. Batt Donegan Place has much scope for tree planting.

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

Charleville being on the main Cork/Limerick has much traffic on both approach roads. In fact, the edge of town on the Limerick Road very much resembles a truck stop. It is difficult to implement improvements when high volumes of traffic are passing by. Nevertheless, this area is fortunate to benefit from established planting of trees which helps to calm the area. It is suggested that the impact of the various enterprises would be softened somewhat if they arranged to plant a line of trees in front of their premises. Perhaps this is a task for the County Council and your role would be to promote the idea. The footpath outside the Enterprise Centre needs completion, including landscape treatment. The footpaths in the town centre include some old and new surfaces, mostly in good condition. In general, the treatment of the approach roads is well done.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Our visit to Charleville was an interesting experience. A town where much is happening and there is plenty to see. Many thanks for your application.