

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville** Ref: **734**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **262**
Category: **D** Date(s): **14/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	37	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	29	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
TOTAL MARK	450	257	262

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

It is a pleasant task to welcome Charleville to this year's Tidy Towns Competition. We see from your application that this is your 13th entry and we trust it will be a fortunate one. Your population of 3,650 places you in the category of small towns. We are most impressed at the number and diversity of those agencies and individuals that have given you support over the past twelve months. Your liaison with the local schools is especially praiseworthy. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí. Thank you for your informative town map, with the numbered index of sites and projects. We also liked the historic map for the town prepared by Cork County Council.

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

Charleville gains a lot from its agricultural catchment area and the Kerry Group campus looked impressive for its scale and its well-kept grounds. The industrial estate is neat and tidy, although it could benefit from some softening from tree planting.

We saw the newly-opened Amber filling station and we hope the old site will be redeveloped in due course. St Joseph's Foundation campus is a great community resource. St Mary's secondary school is a fine building, within an extensive campus that also incorporates St. Joseph's and St. Anne's. This is good planning, having the schools clustered together. We saw the new roof being put on the rear of the national school. The post office looked well. The ESB substation still deserves screening and the Garda station looked a little unkept. The Second Wind Bar looked attractive.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We found a lot of landscaping that was praiseworthy. We understand what you have to say regarding the fountain. It is a prominent feature and has a certain sculptural quality, even when the water is not flowing. The 1916 remembrance park was commended. We really liked the colour scheme on the newly repainted pavilion. Well done. We commend the attractive garden and bed planting at de Valera Place. The de Valera plaque is nicely incised in black and gold. We also admired the restored war memorial. The entrance to the graveyard was neat and tidy. A cherry tree there is under pressure and there are a few dead trees there that should be removed or replaced. At the park we admired the extensive playground. It is a great community resource.

The lavender planting opposite the church caught our eye. It is commended also for being sustainable and for contributing to local biodiversity. We commend the tree and shrub planting at the Aldi store.

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

You are making good progress in this category, especially with the park project.

We were delighted to see the oak tree planting at Meadow Vale, especially on account of the biodiversity that oaks offer, harbouring and nourishing a great variety of birds and insects. We saw an array of ox-eye daisies along the Newmarket road. We look forward to seeing the wildlife information panels that are being prepared by the transition year students.

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

We commend your initiatives in re-use of paper and grass clippings as mulching for the trees, and the prevention of food waste is a great project too.

We commend you for the two charity shops where local people can re-use and recycle items while the charities themselves benefit. It is a win/win outcome. The emphasis now is on the avoidance of waste in the first instance. You will see from the waste pyramid diagram that recycling is the fourth most preferred options, after avoidance, reducing and re-use.

This is topic where guidance can be sought from the County Council.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your work on the control of kerbside weeds deserves praise. The support of the Council in abating the build-up of roadside silt will surely assist your efforts. We commend the way you have encouraged participation by local schoolchildren in your projects.

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

Clancy Terrace impressed us and we noted the interesting historic connections those houses have. Meadow Vale estate is well kept and we noted its Garden City type layout. Glen Haven has some imposing houses and the estate was litter-free. Holy Cross Place was well-presented, and its pieta on the island site had been freshly painted. At both Kennedy Place and Oliver Plunkett Place we came across discarded containers from fast food outlets. Granary Court, on Baker's Lane, shows a fine restoration of a lovely stone-built building. The four cottages, painted in white and green, are a credit to the residents. Well done. Oakfield benefits from the trees (copper beech and silver birch).

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

The 'Welcome to County Cork' sign on the Kilmallock Road needs cleaning and clearing. The name sign on the Newmarket Road was clear and bright.

We saw how limestone kerbstones are a notable feature of the town. They are a heritage item and we were delighted to see so many of them well-maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

We commend you for taking on board all of the comments made by last year's adjudicator, and for your implementation programme. We look forward to a return visit to the town.