

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville** Ref: **734**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **279**
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39	40
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	32	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	26	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	37
TOTAL MARK	450	273	279

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Charleville (An Rath) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your entry form with supporting material. Truthfully, we don't need to see minutes/reports/ analysis of reports as the adjudicators would not have time to read all of these. We see you have a committee of 12-15 with an additional 50 available to help when particular jobs need to be done and we commend you on this large number of volunteers. You have a great long list of state and semi-state organisations and in addition local businesses and other voluntary bodies whom you avail of for funding, support and advice. Good communication is the key to any Tidy Towns committee's success in involving the community and your use of Facebook, the CTT website, local newspapers etc. is commendable. We were delighted to read that you engage with all of the schools and your anti-litter poster competition appears to have been a resounding success. We loved the one by Amy on the front of your 2018 application form. Have you thought about commencing a Junior Tidy Towns group? Your commitment to Tidy Town's for the past 13 years is admirable and we hope you have found it rewarding. Many congratulations to the volunteer who undertook the work for the new Community Outreach Website and we were delighted to read that it has been successful.

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

Your town has a great variety of architectural styles which gives it a very interesting aspect. You have many structures of merit including the wonderful Gothic Revival RC Holy Cross Church, the former Cof I church now a library, the AIB, Credit Union and Bank of Ireland buildings, the old school which Eamonn De Valera attended, the group of institutional buildings at Smith's Lane, the old schoolhouse now SchoolYard Theatre, the 1942 Pavilion, etc. etc. You also have many fine shopfronts and we particularly admired J.P. Moran and Co, and Murray's. We see that quite a lot of old limestone kerbing still exists in the town and we caution you resist any attempt of its removal as this is part of the historic fabric of the town. We also noted O'Flaherty with the wonderful original Wyatt windows to the upper floors. The building on Smiths Lane with the dripping paint colours is a bit of fun and the beautiful executed tiling of the adjoining derelict shopfront was admired. We loved that there are steps between the footpaths and road in some areas and we see that level access has also been provided. It is great to read that there was a good take up on the painting scheme run by Cork Co Co. This has been successful in other towns and we suggest that you approach owners to encourage them to avail of this assistance.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We admired the many pocket parks you have around the town which give great colour and movement in addition to being habitats for insects etc. We particularly admired the park at the junction of the N20 and R515. The two areas/beds near the church were also admired but we recommend the removal of the signs which are on the milk

cart as these are ugly and detract for the feature. The bed at the junction was alive with bees and butterflies who were visiting the lavender and roses. We are delighted when we read (and see photographs) of floral displays throughout the year, and your inclusion of photos showing spring and autumnal colour were delightful. We see that you have a comprehensive list of the planting in the various areas in the town and that some of these are watered using rainwater harvested from the Library roof. Quite a few of the businesses along the main street had colourful displays of flowers. We recommend that you give them a list of pollinator friendly plants so that they are informed when making up their baskets and planters next year. What a great take up you had by various companies and factories who not only trimmed their trees and planted new ones but also undertook large landscaping projects. This will make a huge difference to these areas in the coming years. We look forward to reading if the trees and shrubs transplanted from the N20 approach roads to the area near the NCT centre was successful tell us next year. It's great to see youths involved in planting a tree; something they can see grow and admire in years to come

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

You have a great amount of stone walls and hedgerows around your town which are wonderful habitats for insects and birds. The town park has a great number of trees along the boundary which provide cover for a variety of animals. Planting pollinator friendly shrubs and flowers is to be encouraged and getting the pupils of St Mary's to help scatter the wildflower seed is commendable. It was disappointing to read that the scutch grass curtailed your plans for the No-Dig Plot and we look forward to seeing if it is successful next year. We ask you to encourage pollinator friendly plants amongst your community and we suggest that you visit the National Biodiversity website and examine the booklet 'Local Communities: Actions to help Pollinators' and put a list of the plants which are good for our pollinators on your Facebook page and website. The All Ireland Daubenton Bat Survey is very worthwhile and next time you have the detector, after you've completed the survey, tune it to different frequencies and you will pick up other bats sounds.

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

We see you are quite active in terms of attending courses etc and now we urge you to organise these for your local community. It is crucial that you publicise these talks/ seminars/ workshops well in advance to get maximum attendance. The reuse stores are commendable as very many items which arrive in the rubbish heap have additional usage for someone else. We were delighted to see that you have two such stores in Charleville. Do you know if many residents have water butts? This might be something you could investigate. Perhaps approach a garden centre and arrange a discount for residents based on bulk buying. We have seen this work for other communities. We also recommend that you visit the website <https://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/> for ideas in terms of sustainability – doing more with less.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We loved the Anti-Litter Poster competition as this will encourage your youth to be litter aware. The town and surrounding area looked good and was generally litter free when we visited. Your regular litter patrols are working well and we compliment you in your diligence in this matter. The standards commented on by the 2017 judge have been maintained which is wonderful as litter and weed growth is often an area which challenges communities. Signage was clean and legible; gates and walls were clean and the power washing is to be encouraged to get rid of the winter grime. Weed growth is a small problem which needs attention, but this was only apparent in some areas (footpaths and kerbs). The black plastic at the bed opposite the church is coming through the gravel and needs to be cut back. The recycling area was neat and tidy the bins clean. They had been recently emptied and were ready to receive the next batch of glass and clothes. There are some poles which are not in use and which detract from the streetscape. We suggest that you do a survey of the town, including entrance roads and laneways, and make a list of all unnecessary and broken 'street furniture and poles' and ask the area engineer to arrange to have all removed. Well done on the work to the old CBS site which is now presentable.

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

You have a great variety of houses in and around the town. Those on the main streets are a mix of one, two, three and in some instances four-storey and we noted that some 'over the shop' residences also occur which we were delighted to see. We were delighted to read that one of the estates approached you for help to clean up their estate as this shows the esteem to which you are held. We also say well done to the residents of De Valera Place for tackling this clean-up with your help. We visited quite a few of the estates around the town and admired those of Líos an Óir, Meadow Vale, Holy Cross Place and The Park where the green open spaces were neatly cut and trees maturing nicely. Some estates are in need of trees along the entrance roads – a project for the future.

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

The entrance roads to the town with their wide grass margins lined with mature trees, shrub beds, neatly trimmed hedgerows and colourful flower beds serve to welcome the visitor. We see that there are some dedicated cycle lanes on the outskirts but these vanish when we meet the town itself. Some of the directional signage and information panels are obscured by trees. We commend Cork Co Co on the pathway to the railway station as this will hopefully encourage passengers to walk rather than take their cars. The large boulders on the road near Lidl are very unpleasant and we recommend that you approach Cork Co OC and request that the footpath is continued and the boulders removed. We were very happy to see such a number of carparks located close to the centre of town which will encourage residents and visitors to use them and so shop on the main street and keep it active. We loved the laneway connections in the town which reflects your historic town centre and we were happy to see that, generally, they were tidy.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to visit your town and thoroughly enjoyed our stay as we meandered around the streets and took in the sights. While you listed your projects as new (N), maintained (M) and future projects (FP) in the application form you didn't continue this system in the map. For next year please number the projects as N1, N2, N3..... M1, M2, M3..... and FP1, FP2, FP3..... both in the application form and on the map. Adjudicators may not necessarily know your town and so a list of the projects using this numbering system is helpful if the adjudicator is to see all you've undertaken / intend to undertake. In addition, if you feel the need to add appendices please bind them together in a similar way to your application form so that the adjudicator doesn't have to remove them from plastic sleeves to examine them. This is not a criticism of your hard work but purely advice on how to make the application form more manageable for the adjudicator.

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2018 competition.