

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacally** Ref: **59**
County: **Clare** Mark: **321**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2017**
05/08/2017

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	49
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	44
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	68	69
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
TOTAL MARK	450	316	321

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the filled up entry form, map and development plan. I note you have 8 committee member plus an additional 15 volunteers. You are working well with the local bodies and agencies and with this combined effort a lot of progress can be made. Lots of meetings are being held to monitor progress and plan ahead. It is very positive to have all those contacts with Clare County Council executives who are very supportive to the Tidy Towns groups around the county, and you are making good use of the other bodies such as the local development association. The parishioners of Ballynacally are well informed of your activities. The green schools initiative is very important and it is nice to find that you are supportive of them.

I read all the other points made in this category which all add up to a good approach to the competition.

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

Ballycorick Church is very well kept with attractive flowers in containers on the walls. I saw the good work done at the old school with the wide footpath and sturdy new railing. There is nice work done on the stone wall facing the cliff and there was an old bird box nearby. I admired the fantastic work done at the entrance to the new graveyard with the splendid new gate, recess walls and flower bed. This work is completed in a very high standard of workmanship, and there is no doubt about this. However I would prefer if it was built in the same style as the old splendid traditional wall and piers. This is not a criticism but I understand that the OPW and conservation officers prefer the old style in those circumstances. We loved the miles of brilliant traditional stone walls which give a distinctive flavour the village. The wall directly across from V CARRIG is broken and in need of repair. I liked the couple of business houses and the community centre that are secluded nicely from the main road.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

We admired beautiful landscaping in some areas notably at the picnic area coming from Ennis and at the different intervals we are pleased to see perennial planting. Hanging baskets of flowers are impressive visual aspects as we travel around the village. And the business houses are playing a positive role with lovely floral displays. A raised flower bed going down towards the school is pretty. The children's playground is a nice facility for the young children of Ballynacally and the green is very well maintained with great mature trees.

The side of the hill at Rosscliff is very well landscaped.

The landscaping on the Kildysart road is very good with tree lined strips of grass and good quality flower beds.

Some parts of Ballynacally consist of a natural rural setting that does not require any intervention, and good to see that you respect that. The roses and rose lovers bench are beautiful by the side of the river; the words of the famous poem come to mind "and I shall have some peace there", this is a splendid setting.

I went down to St Martin's well and a gentleman and three ladies were painting and cleaning – great spirit

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

On the nice white wall beside the recycling centre the three bird boxes are colourful attractions and we wonder are they being used by the birds. I saw the Japanese knotweed out the Cranny road and appreciate that you know how to deal with it, and we are pleased that you are taking the correct approach by having it registered with the County Council; today it was growing vigorously and it was trampled on by passing traffic, and this could lead to it being spread further and you could get advice from the Council about this aspect of it.

We can understand that you have a positive attitude to wildlife with the opening of an account with the National Bio-diversity Centre.

In some areas I see where the grass is let grow longer to encourage wildlife habitats. It is wise to ban the use of weed killers and slug pellets.

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

The swop shop is a great way of reducing material going to landfill and some clothing gets a new lease of life. I like the idea of the drop off collection of various items like shoes etc.

With the children, teachers and parents involved in the green schools competition there now is a better understanding of how best to protect the local environment.

I read about the many other initiatives that you promote to seriously tackle the waste we produce.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your recycling centre is very well kept with the nice low box trees, containers of flowers and brilliant roses. This village is tidy, no doubt about that, and we know that this does not happen automatically; I saw two of your members weeding the flower beds at seven o'clock on a Monday evening – great spirit. We congratulate all who took part in the national spring clean-up, and this of course includes the children as seen in your photograph. We are pleased to see you take action on dog fouling. The litter bins are clean and tidy and well serviced.

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

You could consider the erection of a sign for the Rossclyff estate; it is very well maintained and well done for letting the grass grow long in a few places.

I saw the derelict houses just up from the bridge, and you are complimented for keeping them tidy at the roadside. I am wondering if Clare County Council could assist you with getting a solution to this problem. I saw that a new roof was put on one of the houses.

There are some really beautiful houses in this district and most of them have nice window boxes, hanging baskets and shrubs plus flowers.

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

The road surfaces are in good condition and we enjoy the lovely stone walls and landscaping as we drive along. Some of your footpaths do need attention and I see you are taking action about them. I would welcome the provision of digital speed cameras as I know for a long time that some people do drive fast through your village. I personally do not like stone walls to be painted but if this is a good safety measure then it is a good idea.

I love that verse about Johnny Doran since first I saw it some years ago

Once beside this ancient stone
Was heard the piper Johnny Doran
Though silent now this noble art
The music lingers in the heart.

Concluding Remarks:

I travelled around in the “footsteps” of enthusiastic and learned people who dearly love Ballynacally

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballynacally village is set in a charming rural setting of rolling fields, mature trees and superb stone walls. Heritage is important to this village and your plan for the future includes preserving the past. The Church is an impressive building and the colourful boxes on the wall enhanced this building. The village green is the focal point of the village which also incorporates a play area. The village pump brightly painted stands pride of place in the village. The rustic coloured Community Centre is a fine amenity for the community and the stone building of the old school was also admired. This is a community that engages well together and also engages with the County Council and all the relevant bodies that can assist and support you in developing and enhancing the village into the future. The mini enterprise area that houses different enterprises looked bright and colourful from the many fine floral displays along their facades. One recommendation would be if funding was available to restore the last building in this centre and this would greatly enhance this area.

The bridges on entering the village make a pleasant feature. One of the bridges has been painted and enhanced with floral displays, perhaps the other bridge should be highlighted in the same style. The businesses along the streetscape of Daly's Bar and Griffin's Bar were well presented. The football pitch and dressing rooms were good, but a sign at the entrance needs cleaning. The school was also admired on its excellent presentation. Landscaping throughout the village was bright and colourful. Pollinator planting in the picnic area was also noted and the items displayed depicting past and present heritage were also noted and greatly admired. The Grotto was also admired. Maybe hedging could be planted along the paling at the village entrance from Kildysart. The recycling centre is neat

and tidy and nicely landscaped. The entrance roads to the village have stone walls and neat verges. The forge cross has good landscaping and the heritage building of the old castle made a charming backdrop to this corner. The graveyard was visited and this judge concurs with the reference made by the first adjudicator, that the work at the entrance although very good would be preferred in a more traditional build. There was some weed growth along the footpath which looked untidy. Well done on the work you are doing to develop the village. It was a pleasure to visit your village for second judging, keep up the good work.