

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Adare** Ref: **440**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **328**
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	49	50
Streetscape & Public Places	50	40	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	47	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	32	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17	18
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
TOTAL MARK	450	321	328

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Adare / Ath Dara chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Many thanks for your completed application, map, associated documents and your five year plan, of which you have now entered your third year. It is positive to note that your network of volunteers is growing. It is an excellent idea to have sub committees in areas such as sustainability and waste management, as this helps to progress you and push you in these important categories. You have open meetings once a month and have developed strong links with Limerick County Council, Local Businesses and local agencies. Success in the competition is not possible without these strong links. Congratulations on your success in the "Going for Gold Challenge", the prize fund has had to be of significant help in developing new projects. You also capitalised on this success by liaising with the local schools and using this as a platform to discuss the importance of Tidy Towns. It is important to if at all possible involve the local schools in your projects, as they are the future of your success in the competition. In such a busy tourist town as Adare, which was bustling on the day of adjudication, it is important to say "Thank You" as you have done through your Thank You lunch. Well done to all your volunteers for all their hard work as this was noted on the day of adjudication. You have also engaged with a massive amount of local agencies, business and bodies and have acknowledged appreciation for them in your application.

It is positive to see that you have embraced Social Media in order to spread your word and to organise meetings and share information. This will continue to grow and cuts down on the amount of paper used and reaches your target audience instantly. You still continue the traditional methods of newsletters and local community notes. Congratulations to the contribution made by the Junior Tidy Towns group, hopefully they will continue to grow and develop and take on some of their own projects in the future. You are now 54 years entering the competition and you acknowledge the contribution that this has made to Adare and shows the pride you have in your community, wanting to develop and enhance it further. It has certainly made it one of the most attractive tourist spots in Ireland. Do continue your good work in this category.

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

The Streetscape of Adare is unique in its magnificence. You continue to preserve it and enhance it year on year. It is positive to see that one of the thatched cottages has been repaired to its former splendour, and hopefully the one adjacent will be well under way by next year. Holy Trinity Church takes pride of place and was looking pristine on the day of adjudication. Dunraven Arms, brightly painted looked welcoming. They are to be complimented on their floral displays to the front, truly splendid. It is brilliant to see Lantern Lodge has been restored and complemented with appropriate landscaping. The Town Hall, looked splendid as did the Tourist Office. The Augustinian Friary was visited and was also greatly admired. As mentioned prior the thatched cottages are a unique sight in Adare and Murphys Cottage in the centre has certainly got a transformation. You certainly look to protect your heritage and

understand the need to develop and protect your buildings and approach any developments and restorations under the conservation guidelines. One such example of this is the courthouse. It is hoped you can get the fountain back working in the near future. Other buildings that caught the eye in their presentation and that add to the streetscape were Sean Collins and Earls and Pears.

The Town Park was visited and it is an absolute joy. It was presented to a high standard and was in busy use on the day of adjudication. It is a tranquil escape from such a busy town. You have planted some summer bedding around the base of a tree in the park, this is not recommended and it competes with the tree for nourishment. Walkways and paths were in good condition throughout the town. Well done on your work in this category.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Adare is lucky to be set in an area of natural beauty, entering from the Limerick side the Lantern Lodge with new landscaping is certainly tastefully done. The natural stone wall with the woodland as a backdrop is nature at its most beautiful. You then cross the river and have the views of Desmond castle, which has beautifully maintained grounds. Adare Manor entrance was absolutely superb. As mentioned previously all restoration completed in the town is done with the utmost care and conservation. The River Walk was explored, giving a different aspect of the Augustinian Priory, the bridge, ST Nicholas School and Desmond Castle. The River Walk is certainly a treat and an excellent amenity for the community and visitors alike. The walk from the River Walk back to the main town was contrasted by the mature trees. It was felt the grass overhanging on the footpath took from the overall air of neatness and tidiness throughout the town. The Lucy Erridge garden is applauded for its beauty and also for the use of harvested rainwater. As mentioned previously the Town Park is a credit to you and to everybody who carefully maintains it. From the wash area to the tress and planting it is a joy. You are wished best of luck with the sensory garden and we look forward to its completion. The town was awash with seasonal colour. It is positive to note you are moving towards more sustainable planting and incorporating bee friendly planting. This was noted throughout the town and in hanging baskets. This is the way forward and please do continue in this vein. As a committee if you have not already done, spread this word throughout the town and hold a talk for the community, involving the local school if possible.

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

You have really approached this category this year with a strong focus. Many thanks for your Biodiversity report conducted in the spring of this year. This is an excellent report and was read with interest. It is amazing to see you spotted so many species of high conservation. The adjudicator was especially delighted to see that you had spotted a Redshank. This report gives you a brilliant foundation to build on and shows the areas where you need to work and develop to protect their habitats and protect their environs. This report should also be circulated to the wider community, so everyone knows what they have in their community and surrounds. One of the aims of this category is knowing what you have and then celebrating this and educating the community. Having a dedicated Biodiversity officer and newly appointed team will only further advance you in this category. It is also positive to note you held a biodiversity evening, it would be great to see pictures and any newspaper articles from these events. Another excellent event was the Bee Monitoring Workshop, did many attend on the day? What was the main conclusions from this event?

The Men's Shed are applauded on their plan to install a beehive, hopefully this will be in place by next year. Your included plan for the sensory garden is very impressive, as is the planting and the raised beds, making the garden accessible to all. Do continue your campaign to raise awareness and help people to identify birds and plants. It would be great if you had some mechanism in place to monitor this to see how many species and plant types are identified. It is also very positive to note that 20,000 additional trees have now been planted in the grounds of Adare Manor. The "living roof" at St Nicholas is certainly a brilliant activity for the school children to see the benefits of such a roof. Do continue your excellent work in this category and keep up the good work.

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

It is important to remember that this category is about moving beyond recycling and is about reducing the amount of waste produced in the first instance and reducing the environmental impact of the waste created. This category also encompasses measures to save on water, energy and transport. Do continue to document even the smallest of savings and build on this to produce a plan on how greater savings are going to be made. To make significant gains first ascertain what you are wasting and then look at how much you're wasting and this gives you the starting point. Above all else document your savings and provide evidence of environmental awareness campaigns.

You are keeping this in mind and have approached your projects logically. It is noted that you attended the GeoparkLIFE: Tourism for Conservation conference. What did you as a committee learn from this? It is positive to see 25 water butts have been installed, hopefully this number continues to grow. The recycling workshop and the information evening on recycling, were again important events. Hopefully you will be able to see some change as a result of these events. It will be interesting to see if recyclable cups and refillable water bottles will be embraced by the local businesses and wider community.

Scoil Naomh Iosef are applauded for their Green Flag for recycling. They are also applauded for their clothes recycling, book scheme and their water saving measures. As are Shountrade N.S applauded for their measures to conserve water. They have the core message of what this category is about. You are making excellent progress in this categories, and are complimented on the wide array of events. We hope to see next year what savings are now happening in Adare as a result of all these initiatives.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

When you look at the amount of footfall that passes through Adare, you really have to be complimented in how you approach your maintenance of the town. From the moment you enter the town you can feel an overall air of tidiness.

This doesn't come without hard work and commitment from the committee, your volunteers and the wider community and you are to be applauded for this. It is good to see that some of your winnings will be put to replacing bins, as some are looking quiet shabby. The Bring Bank located in the Heritage Centre car park was pristine. It is also positive to see the local school children are involved in litter picks after break times. The town was practically litter free on the day of adjudication. A few pieces were noted but this was fresh litter. Footpaths and signage was excellent. Well done on all your hard work and do continue your excellent work in this area.

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

You only have to look at the town to know that there is pride in its presentation and this has transferred to all residential areas in the town. The adjudicator was especially drawn to the "The Avenue" the cottages here are a credit to their owners, all beautifully presented. The Cottages Black Avenue Road and Rathkeale Road were also greatly admired. It is positive to note that pollinator friendly planting is also been used by residents and that the Tidy Towns group is supporting them in such endeavours. The seasonal planting of baskets and boxes was also greatly admired as was the irrigated window system. Well done to everybody in this category and do keep up the good work.

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

There are not many towns that can rival your approach roads. The approach from Limerick is unique with the beautiful stone walls and the mature woodland. The stone walls are beautifully cared for and presented. Grass verges are neatly presented and maintained perfectly. Given the volume of traffic on these roads it must be difficult to keep them to that standard. You have left uncut boundaries and this is complimented. New paths were noticed at Scoil Naomh Iosef as was the new parking zone. The new paths have only added to this tree lined road. You continue to make buildings accessible and this is applauded. The car park at the heritage centre is well maintained and access to the car park is good. While traffic was heavy on the day of adjudication there was some delays but overall traffic was flowing.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to be back in Adare and to adjudicate your town for this year's Tidy Towns. You continue to make excellent progress in the competition. Do continue the good work and you are wished continued success.