

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery - Ros Ó gCairbre** Ref: **691**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **340**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2019**
30/07/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	60	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	39	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	41	42
TOTAL MARK	470	332	340

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Rosscarbery - Ros Ó gCairbre páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Rosscarbery is situated on a shallow estuary making it a beautiful tourist attraction as well as a lovely walking attraction for visitors and the community. Thank you for your application and supporting documentation for this year's competition. There is a vibrant committee with an ever ready group of volunteers who are only too willing to help with various projects to develop and enhance the area. Meetings are held regularly and engagement with the relevant businesses of the town and all the agencies is ongoing. The schools also play a big part in all projects undertaken. With such good support locally, it becomes easier to organise fund raising events, which are so important in progressing the area onwards. Communication to the wider community is through social media and word of mouth ensuring all members are notified of developments. Rosscarbery are participating in the competition for a great number of years and this has helped create a greater sense of pride in the community which in turn has resulted in many improvements that otherwise may not have happened. Work on the N71, upgrading this stretch of road was noted and this progress is good to see happening even if it causes some disruption to the public for a period of time.

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

There is no doubt you were busy for this year's competition with a number of projects completed in this category. The social housing which was under construction during 2018 is now looking resplendent. The new name stone makes a grand entrance and a nice feature at the road junction/location of Coach road. Work on the Parish Hall is ongoing. The square is the focal point and the hard and soft landscaping of trees, planters and good signage complement this important part of Rosscarbery. The shops have brightly coloured facades which gives great ambience to the streetscape. The Churches are all well-presented and the Grotto looked clean and bright with good well maintained landscaped beds. The beach is a great amenity for any village or town to have access to and what makes your area unique is that all members can now enjoy the facility if they wish to with the new Beach Wheelchair, that the Council has provided. It is also good to see the public parks to be so neat and bright.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Rosscarbery has done good work in this category with many areas of good landscaping along the entrance roads and throughout the village. The hard and soft landscaping blend well, in particular in the square. The move to more sustainable planting provides greater interest and colour all year round and is also better for pollinators and is more economical for groups. Container planting where ground planting is not feasible brings great colour and cheer to the streetscape. Good planting of trees and hedging was also visible. Continue your good work in this area.

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

Following on from the previous category it shows that you have a good understanding and awareness of nature and biodiversity in your locality, with the advice you have taken in regard to following a proper planting plan in relation to creating natural habitats for wildlife. You are also celebrating wildlife in your community by hosting walks and talks such as the one to Pairc a Tobair which will be an important Nature Habitat into the future. The information panels and signs on the management of the different wildlife as well as creating an awareness among the wider community of the different species that exist in the locality were noted. A new pollination monitoring scheme called Flower insect counts [FIT] counts that measures insect visitation. It involves picking an area of flowers 50cmx50cm for ten minutes between April and September and counting how many insects visit. This is a project that the school could get involved in.

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

As the adjudicator for 2018 stated in the report, you have a good understanding on what is required from the wider community in this category. You are working closely with the schools and businesses on different ways of saving under the various headings. This became apparent in the green spaces and landscaping category where you grow your own plants and use recycled plastic for flower pots and seating. You use leaf compost and harvest water for watering purposes. This is a category that sometimes the adjudicator can see no visible signs of saving but not so in your application. Well done to the schools for the work and savings they have achieved under the green school's initiative. Well done on the survey on energy savings which shows excellent results. Would it be possible to do a similar survey on the amount of waste that is produced by the community over a number of weeks and see if it is reducing in accordance with all the good initiatives that you are engaged in? Reducing waste is a community working together initiative and I have no doubt from reading through your application that this is in place in Rosscarbery.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on the good work you are doing to maintain Rosscarbery to such a high standard of presentation. It is good to note that the entire community get involved in litter picks. The inter village litter competition that the village takes part in is a good way of motivating the community to get involved. Well done on winning a tourism award in 2018. Getting recognition helps to encourage and rewards the community for their efforts. You state in your application that you have removed the bins over a period of time from the Abbey Graveyard and this has been a success. This is happening in many villages and towns across the country and people are taking litter home. Keep up the good work with your regular litter picks and clean ups. The village was generally tidy. The Bottle Bank enhanced by a tub of flowers was neat. Signage was generally good. The road works do cause untidiness but this is progress and the end result will be worth the disruption.

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

The standard of houses along the approach roads to the village and throughout the streetscape are bright and colourful with good landscaping brightening up the surrounds. The housing estates were also admired with good landscaping and green areas. The name stone at Carley Court enhanced the entrance and it is positive to note that the residents and businesses worked together to carry out this lovely project at no cost to the community. This is good community spirit and addresses all the questions under Community Planning and Involvement. The play areas, important amenities for the village are very well maintained and it is good to see and hear enjoyment from the activities in these areas.

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

The approach roads from all directions gives a very good first impression to the visitor. The pleasant views with many walkers enjoying the experience were noted along the way. The Bilingual name stones on approach and the excellent sustainable landscaping are applauded. The bridges enhanced with fine plants are an important part of the village boundary and look superb. The improvements to Coach Road was also noted and the completed work will enhance this road greatly. The Clonakilty road looked neat with a mowed strip along the grass verge. This type of mowing encourages wildlife while giving a cared for look.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit a village with a strong committee working with all the community to progress the area making it a better place for the community and visitors to enjoy. Keep up the good work and you are wished continued success.

Second Round Adjudication:

Previous visits to Rosscarbery were very brief so on this occasion it was a pleasure to spend a longer time and to see much more of your beautiful town. The approach is delightful and provides an attractive view of the town from the hill on the Clonakilty Road. Your application is very well presented, and the pictures inserted throughout were a suitable size and most helpful. Your 15-member committee and another 25 volunteers are very representative of your small community. The three-year plan for 2019 to 2020 is well-constructed, and you are fortunate to have a community employment scheme to support your work. Your colourful map is one of the best we have seen in terms of layout and identifying landmarks. We commend you for that and for including a legend on the map. One suggestion; please place numbers in a sequence to make them easier to find. We admired the new planting at

Warren Cross. Nearby, the high-quality sign on how tidal systems work, with a binoculars for viewing the wildlife were even more impressive.
Warren beach was very clean, including the refurbished toilet block. We wonder if the many good-quality signs here could be rearranged in such a way to reduce the element of clutter.
The spacious car park somewhat concealed with sand dunes was clean and tidy.

Well done on the wooded Quay Garden between Serpentine Road and Coach Road where we saw the pollinator garden and the compost area. The adjacent Forge Park is well done but seems to have aged a little and perhaps it is time to be refreshed. The trees in this linear strip add great visual character valuable biodiversity, but the shrub planting requires some pruning and weeding. Timber edging of the pathway is beginning to decay, and we wonder if it is actually needed. A slight slope on the grass edge would be sufficient if it was removed.

The N 71 upgrade looks well, and it is nice to see undisturbed vegetation on both sides of the road some of which is covering signs, so attention is needed there. The Parish Hall with its new roof looks well and nearby, the artwork on the white cottages caught our eye.

The town square is an attractive area and we noted the new windows on the gable wall at Londis. Trees are planted on both sides of the street; we would prefer that they were allowed to grow into their characteristic shape rather than annual trimming. There are weeds on the pavement especially near bins and walls where there is no footfall, so some attention is needed there. Four well-planted areas in the corners help to demarcate the carriageway from the parking areas. The monument to Michael Collins Tom Barry and Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa is very well done. There is a good standard of floral displays in plant containers throughout the town and on some houses public and private, especially The Abbey Bar and the private house near the new social housing, which we admired. Well done on the many initiatives undertaken by the schools within your community in regard to sustainability and congratulations to Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire on achieving five green flags. The message to visitors to take their litter home caught our eye and we wonder about its level of success. In any case, we found Rosscarbery a very clean and tidy community and encourage you to keep up the good work.