

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **332**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2018**
06/08/2018

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	48
Streetscape & Public Places	50	43	44
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	45	46
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	38	39
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	41
TOTAL MARK	450	326	332

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Rosscarbery Ros an gCairbre chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. It's great to see that participation levels are high in your village with 30 volunteers helping out your hard-working committee of 12 members. It is clear from your application that your projects are undertaken on a year-round basis with many cleanups and project events taking place throughout the year. You are commended on your strong links with Cork County Council and Tus and we wondered if the West Development Partnership could also provide you with funding and assistance? There is no doubt that your work is valued and appreciated by the community and businesses in Rosscarbery with a large number sponsoring and getting involved with your activities. The businesses who help out include; the Rosscarbery Business Association, the local IFA, SuperValu, Clonakilty, Centra, Clonakilty Credit Union, Keohane Ready Mix, Anderson Tyres, Ryans Shop, local contractors, Clonakilty Black Pudding and the Celtic Ross Hotel. We were struck by the large number of voluntary groups and sports clubs who help out and they include; the GAA, Foroige, Munitir na Tire, the Historical Society, the Active Retired Group and the Community Council. We urge you to maintain these links in the years ahead as it is important to have the support of the wider community. We noted that your communication strategy is working well and we are pleased to read that you involve the secondary school and both primary schools in your projects. We were most impressed with your long history of participation in this competition (as this is your 43rd year) and it is heartening to note that it has had such a positive impact on community spirit and many other aspects of life in Rosscarbery. Thank you for your comprehensive application form and map as they were very helpful during adjudication. We recommend using double sided printing for your application form next year. It is noted that no tidy towns action plan has been submitted and we wondered if one had been prepared? A plan would enable you to set out a work programme for a 3 – 5 year period and it could be used to delegate projects to the schools and other voluntary groups.

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

This was the first time that the adjudicator had visited Rosscarbery and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon exploring your village and observing its many notable attractions. Its coastal setting is magnificent and there are numerous amenity areas which provides wonderful views of the surrounding coastline. The village is a delight to visit with so many original traditional style buildings in productive use and in good condition. The central square was particularly inviting following its enhancement works and the new trees and surfacing material of non slip decking looked very well. We enjoyed reading the lovely memorial to the 3 Patriots of Rosscarbery – namely, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Michael Collins and Tom Barry. The permanent landscaping beds (comprising a mixture of brick and stone) are stocked with a wonderful diversity of colourful plant species and they also made a pleasant seating areas on a warm summer's evening! The positive contribution of individual shops and businesses to the appearance of the village cannot be underestimated with many looking exceptionally well during our visit. While virtually every

business achieved a high standard of presentation, a number stood out with the Doswell Gallery, the Rosscarbery Pharmacy, Tricia's salon (which seems to be a great reuse of an old Pub!), O'Briens, Nolans, O'Callaghans, the Pilgrims and Rebeccas all deserving of a positive mention! Further down, Landmarks is nice and the Ross Celtic Hotel is an attractive modern building with well-kept grounds. We also enjoyed seeing St Fachtnas Church with its rendered finish and natural stone steeple. It was noted that the adjacent building (is this the village hall?) was under repair (and getting a new roof) and we look forward to seeing this complete in 2019. The Catholic Church and the convent are also eye-catching structures. It is clear that the committee, volunteers and development partners has certainly been busy with new projects under this category for 2018. In addition to the village enhancement, it is noted that new housing was being built and we anticipate its completion next year. Well done on providing an information panel in front of the Catholic Church and the Rosscarbery flour mill as these signs will help to make a walk around your village an enlightening experience. The new seat in the Abbey graveyard provides a wonderful viewing point of the coastline and it is noted that the Warren car park toilets are to be upgraded. You are also commended on your maintenance and improvements work to the Forge Park. The projects that are proposed in the future under this category are acknowledged and they include; the provision of a pedestrian crossing and traffic calming on the Skibbereen approach and in the square, repairing footpaths and providing car parking spaces for the mobility impaired in the square.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There were many high quality landscaping schemes to be seen in Rosscarbery on adjudication day. The simple landscaping and impressive bird sculpture at the welcome stone on the Causeway is eye-catching and we particularly enjoyed the diverse mix of plant species in the gravel based bed at 'gairdin an che'. The planted beds to be found in the car park of the Celtic Ross Hotel were well maintained and colourful while the mature planting in Forge Park looked well. The large bed opposite the Landmark needs a revamp as notable amounts of weed and weed blocker were showing. The simple planting and young trees on the layby opposite also looked well. We are most impressed with the carefully maintained planted beds to be found in the village square that contained a wonderful mix of seasonals, perennials and shrubs. The recently planted trees enhance the square further. The significant contribution of businesses and shops to landscaping in the square is also acknowledged with exuberant floral displays that were bursting with summer colours to be seen outside Nolans, Pilgrims, Rebeccas, O'Callaghans and the Abbey Bar. When it comes to green spaces, both residents and visitors are spoiled for choice. Forge Park is a wonderful amenity and it is clear that it plays a significant part in your impressive pollination corridor. The range of amenity areas (with seating) that afford wonderful views of the coast is remarkable with the spaces at the entrance to the Warren Road, the memorial garden and Gairdin an Che standing out. The standard of maintenance observed in each of these spaces was second to none and the hard work of the committee in achieving this is very much appreciated. We are pleased to read that the committee has sought expert landscaping advice on planting schemes in your village and we are sure to see this influence in the years ahead. Your future projects which include continued maintenance of plant beds and trees and the cultivation of cuttings from existing plants is noted.

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

We are delighted to read in your application that you have followed the advice of the adjudicator in 2017 and made the decision to seek expert advice on the plant species to be used in your planting schemes from a landscaping expert, Birdwatch Ireland and the local beekeepers Association. This will enable your committee to undertake planting schemes that not only enhance the appearance of your attractive town but will also provide a valuable source of food and shelter for local wildlife. Why not get the schoolchildren to carry out a wildlife survey in order to monitor the effects of your new pollinator planting? It is also recommended that these surveys are carried out on an annual or a biannual basis to help you establish what is happening with biodiversity in Rosscarbery. We are pleased to hear that a new mature tree has been planted in the pollination garden along with some sustainable shrubs and bee friendly seeds and we look forward to seeing these mature in the years ahead. The pollination corridor is a wonderful initiative. The provision of white thorn on the Clonakilty Road is commended and your strategy of leaving grass uncut in the Forge Park Newtown and on the N71 is acknowledged. Are species counts planned to help assess the impact of this wildlife management approach? Well done on managing the hedgerows on the approach roads and for stacking branches and bramble's in the Newtown Park and at the parish hall to attract insects and wildlife. We note that new bird boxes have been placed in Forge Park and we would love to hear about what bird species they attract in the New Year. We are pleased to see that the committee is taking its role on raising environmental awareness seriously by providing wildlife information signs and other signage (including the 'do not feed swans' signs) around the village.

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

It is clear from the number of projects included in your application form for this category in 2018 that your committee has a good understanding of what is required to achieve waste minimisation and sustainable resource management. We are particularly interested to read the results of the energy awareness survey in Rosscarbery. It is striking to note that energy consumption is quite high in a significant number of the houses that were surveyed. How do the school \ committee plan to address this? Is it proposed to promote the green homes scheme? We are interested to hear that a survey on food waste was carried out with businesses in 2017 and we wondered if the results of this have been made available? We would also like to hear more about how the findings from your surveys is to be used in future projects. You are commended on your use of planting and landscaping schemes that are sourced locally, that are not overdependent on water and which are pollinator friendly. Well done also on composting leaves to make compost and harvesting rainwater for use in your landscaping schemes. Your work greening the surf turf and tar half marathon is acknowledged. However, you should be aware that running events have taken place in County Louth and other locations where reusable cups are used for drinks, then collected and

washed and reused at other events – thereby producing no or very little waste. Thank you for the details on what local businesses are doing under this category. However, we will need you to quantify results to assess whether your projects are having the desired effect and changing behavior. We are delighted to read about the origin of the Heron sculpture (made by local artist from an old oil drum) as it demonstrates what a combination of good organisation, an innovative idea and artistic talent can achieve! We are pleased to see that your committee are working closely with the schoolchildren and projects under this category and we would appreciate further updates in 2019.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The combination of annual cleanups (such as the litter pick on the N71 and the Abbey Garden cleanup) and weekly \ twice-weekly litter patrols are proving very effective in keeping the litter levels down. We are pleased to report that the standard of litter control observed during our visit was very high and it reflects the hard work that has gone into this category. Well done also on acquiring your new Billy Goat litter vacuum and we have no doubt that this is having a positive impact too! Litter was absent in most locations but a noticeable amount unexpectedly appeared in a roadside ditch between Carbery Court and the N71. Is this a litter blackspot that requires constant monitoring? A small amount was also seen on Barrick Lane. The standard of tidiness observed was similarly high with neat roadsides and weed free pavements on view during adjudication – particularly in the village square and on key approach roads. A small amount of improvements could be considered for 2019. A yield sign at the top of Closheen Lane needs attention while a sli na slainte sign further down is untidy looking. In addition, the directional sign for the recycling bank at a junction close to the Catholic Church also needs some maintenance.

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

The standard of presentation of residential areas in Rosscarbery is high with a number of estates standing out. We admired the new entrance stone at Burgatia Road as well as the landscaping and neat grass areas. Carbery Court looked very clean and tidy while individual houses and gardens looked particularly well. Newtown draws positive attention with its smart and neat modern houses. We also liked the Courtyard which is located closer to the village centre. The neat traditional style terraced housing on Barrack Lane and on Cross Street was admired. The committee is commended on its work organising the flower display competition and the provision of new basketball boards, soccer goals and new play items to the playground. It was also noted that future projects are also proposed which include; continuing to work with residents and installing new name stones in other residential areas.

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

It is a pleasure to travel into Rosscarbery in the key approach roads with their wonderful coastal views, eye-catching bilingual welcome stones, landscaping and neat verges. The work to the Warren Road was observed and this looked very well during our visit. We are pleased to note that a pedestrian area has also been marked out on this stretch of the upgraded road. While the standard of road surfacing in Rosscarbery it is generally good, there are some notable exceptions such as the entrance to the Catholic Church and the Glandore road approach. We wondered if there are any plans to improve these areas? Well done also and completing the repair of the wall on the Dunmanway road and providing the new welcome name signs on the Causeway and at Martin Hayes cross.

Concluding Remarks:

We very much enjoyed visiting your wonderful village and seeing the many excellent projects that you have undertaken for this year's competition. The committee and volunteers should be proud of their hard work and you can be sure that it has greatly improved Rosscarbery. Well done again and we look forward to returning in 2019.

Second Round Adjudication:

No matter how many times you visit Rosscarbery the view are you enter never disappoints. It is good to be back in Rosscarbery and it is great to see you are progressing in the competition. You approach the competition in a structured manner and plan your projects accordingly and these projects enhance and develop your area. The colourful facades of the buildings as always stand out, such as the Abbey Bar and Nolans. The square was bustling on the day and you have managed the correct amount of landscaping and trees which softens the structures and transforms the square. The Celtic Cottages stood out with their unique artwork to the front. The many roads and lanes that lead back the coast were admired in their presentation and they all add something different to your wonderful streetscape. The view from the causeway is breath-taking. Your approach to landscaping is good and it is positive to see more sustainable planting appearing around the town, do continue with this. Quay Garden is a joy but the cut grass left after mowing looked untidy. Curls Rock area was visited and the view from here was greatly admired. You are commended for your approach to the planting in the pollinator garden. You use of seasonal planting at different point around the town gave that extra splash of summer colour where needed.

The many residents throughout Rosscarbery are to be complimented on their presentation. They were brightly painted and suitably adorned with baskets and boxes. Rosscarbery has a feel of nearly two towns you get the breath-taking views out over the water and then you come back up to the main town. The streets and lanes were all well-presented, especially noted was Carbery's Lane. The Old Barracks was also admired. Approach roads were generally good and your nameplate on the causeway was certainly admired. The new wall on Warren road was especially admired. The corner at the Dunmanway approach also impressed. You have approached projects this year that have certainly enhanced the town and you are commended for this work. Do continue in this manner and you will continue to progress in the competition. The town was generally tidy on the day of adjudication and was generally litter free, a few piece were noted but nothing major. Well done on your work

for this year and you are wished continued success.