

# Tidy Towns Competition 2017

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **326**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/07/2017**  
**29/07/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	42	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37	38
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>326</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Rosscarbery is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017; thank you for your entry form which includes a Three Year Tidy Towns Plan and a helpful map. It was a real pleasure to visit your lovely village and your adjudicator will return later in the year for leisure. Congratulations on being awarded the village enhancement grant to be invested in the future development of Rosscarbery and funding for the playground and the Warren Strand road, this is a fine achievement. The committee's liaison with a wide variety of groups within the community together with effective communication methods ensures a cohesive approach to the development of Rosscarbery. It is satisfying to note the benefits to the community of participating in the Tidy Towns Competition. We wish the committee success in all future endeavours.

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

The built environment of Rosscarbery is a wonderful palate of complementary colours and natural stone; the overall streetscape is complemented by the absence of visually intrusive wirescape and unsightly service poles, attractive street furniture (in most instances) and the interpretive panel on the use of natural stone in Rosscarbery provides a 'finishing touch'. Some of the older litter bins need attention. It is good to note that property owners have been approached regarding the maintenance of their premises, hopefully this will bring about the desired results. Well done on the painting of external walls at the Celtic Ross Hotel together with resurfacing. We anticipate the refurbishment of the old Parish Hall / School in time for next year's competition

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Tree planting at several locations within Rosscarbery and on approaches is commendable and will make a significant contribution to their immediate environs as they mature. The replacement of shrubberies within the Square and the maintenance / makeover of those within the Quay Garden is applauded particularly as students were involved also. Do keep in mind the needs of wildlife especially pollinators in the choice of species. Some thought might be given to the development of a Tree Trail. Universal accessibility is also an important factor so do check to see if all amenity / landscaped areas are accessible to all.

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

Congratulations on the development of a pollinator corridor and accessing expert advice on this. We note that sections of the Forge Park are left uncut for pollinators and other wildlife. Well done also on the installation of the four wildlife information panels in June 2016 and the two new direction signs for the Woodland Trail. Leaving brambles branches and twigs to create a natural habitat for bugs et cetera is a good idea as long as they don't

cause a hindrance to people. The roadside fencing of the playground has been replaced and renewed since this adjudicator's last visit in addition to the old entrance gates and railings. The upgrade of the Cliff Walk together with the Curls Rock development enhances the amenity status of Rosscarbery significantly. The old graveyard is beautiful together with the stained-glass project outside might it be an idea to install informal seating (tree stumps / trunks) into the graveyard to create a quiet space for meditation / reflection?

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramháiola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well done on the installation of the two solar panels and the two LED lights. Participation in the Green Schools Programme is also applauded and the input of the Rosscarbery Tidy Towns Committee in this respect is notable. The survey of local business undertaken by transition year students sounds interesting and we would like to hear more about more results, 50% awareness of the issues involved is a little surprising. The variety of activities engaged in ranging from the Up-Cycling Competition through a composting morning and talks on sustainable energy communities to rainwater harvesting is indicative of a lot of interest and energy available to the committee and community in the area of sustainable waste and resource management, we look forward to future projects.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Litter control is excellent in Rosscarbery and indiscriminate dumping is not an issue either. Undeveloped sites can be unsightly however and two were noted; if these are not to be developed shortly they should be screened effectively as an interim measure. Overhead service cables were not an intrusive feature of the village centre. Your own weekly clean-ups and your involvement with the council in the inter-villages litter competition as well as the KWD clean-up of the N 71 in addition to participation in the Pride in our Community competition run by Muintir Na Tire indicates a cohesive and strong community spirit; the An Taisce clean-up on Warren beach is not overlooked either! Representations to owners of outhouses and sheds in need of improvement will hopefully bear fruit.

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

Establishing contacts in all residential areas is a good start to gaining the co-operation and involvement of residents; the annual flower display competition must make a difference also, many private gardens were admired in the course of adjudication. Hopefully the unfinished estate on the Glandore approach road (where new trees have been planted this year) will be completed in the short term. Improvements to a number of houses are noted and your adjudicator was impressed by the co-ordinated colour scheme in many instances. Remind residents to pay appropriate attention to their roadside boundary walls and areas immediately to the roadside of these.

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

The refurbishment of the old stone wall and new capping is a fine achievement; the installation of the new stone sign is notable also. It is good to note topsoil with pollinator friendly planting here also. Road surfacing to the Back Road near the Social Services Centre and at the GAA dressing rooms together with remedial work along Mill Road is good; your adjudicator had a nasty jolt during an encounter with an enormous pot-hole when pulling in to allow a car to pass on Carbery Hill! Remedial action is required here! Road and footpath surfaces are generally good within the village centre.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Rosscarbery is a delightful village where the man-made environment is as beautiful as the natural environment.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

What an introduction to your village: the Atlantic Ocean on both sides of the road, and not a bridge in sight. Such a vista creates wonderful opportunities for coastline walks and these are fully availed of. The sad situation for the village itself is that one could have an unforgettable day out in Rosscarbery and never visit the village. But what a loss that would be. Roads twist and wind round the estuary and up and down steep hills providing panoramic views of the surroundings with houses and streets nestled into the outcropping cliffs. A movie location. But let's touch base with the reality of this Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the picturesque map which pointed out some of the many projects which engaged you over the winter and into spring. But a trip through the village also pointed up the high maintenance work that is witnessed at every turn changing winter to summer with glorious colour. While the adjudicator loved the map there are aspects of your submission that you need to examine. Yes photos of 'before' and 'after' are most valuable in describing a project. But there are many photos of situations that the adjudicator will see for himself. Beware of overkill, make sure that the adjudicator actually visits Rosscarbery. In some categories you have two sets of entries with the description of let's say composting leaves as a text book chapter, relevant to your work but not of assistance to the adjudicator. Less is often more for the purposes of your submission. The adjudicator loved the rugged nature of Rosscarbery. And that rugged nature is allowed express itself with the odd refinement to facilitate human habitation. So the Curls Rock refinement enhances the experience of the visit as do all of the other landscaped amenities along the coast. Even the rough at the Pitch and Putt is wild and threatening. Information panels on the local biodiversity, as on the mud flats, enrich the experience. The adjudicator came on two locations enhanced with stain glass, in the most unlikely of situations and what a joy. Tobar Aindí is celebrated in another delightful location. One spies the convent building looming over the estuary when returning from the Cliff walk but that great mass of grey disappears when one arrives into town, secluded by the natural growth that swallows it up. The village square is alive and buzzing, shedding off the dark years with a swagger. Approach the Centra proprietors again, a blot on the streetscape. I would expect more use of the Gaeilge but with the exception of Gairdín an Ché and Plásán an Aoibhneas there is little about. There are so many charming housing

developments throughout with residents creating delightful images through paint and blossom. The pity is that these terraces are not named, they deserve such a distinction. Stone is a popular and attractive finish on many houses. Houses along Mill Road overlooking the bay form a picture post card image of the area. The same is true of Chapel Lane. Information panels abound, all decorative and all informative. The one that I found unique was the one on the use of stone in the area. Well done on the pollinator signs, and the wildlife information. Your many projects speak for themselves. Yet one must mention the planting at Burgatia Cross and the planting of saplings in various locations, for instance along the wall opposite the hotel car park. Raised beds bloom. The Star Garden Houses are a credit to you, the strong colours on the doors and windows contrasting with the prevailing cream. The Cliff Walk is one of the natural delights of the area so well done on all the access actions. Your Ros Ó gCairbre Welcome stones are hewn out of those rugged, natural surroundings mentioned earlier and form part of brand Rosscarbery. Forge Park is designed as a heritage park, as a recreational area, as a bee pollinator, as a bug haven and as a wonderful awareness area for people of the needs of wildlife living beings in the area. The information panel on the influence of trees is superb. I expect that you are dealing with the Japanese Knotweed near the recycling centre. Well done. One is pleased to read that the local Foróige group plays a part in the little projects at Forge Park. The adjudicator loves the practice of using your natural resources in managing waste and in use of resources. I am referring to the mountains of leaves that could be a composting industry in themselves. Rain is also in plentiful supply so harvesting is a natural corollary. Great to read of the LED street lighting but surely that is a normal event as is the ECO light at Curles Rock. The one location that disappointed the adjudicator was the Abbey graveyard which seems neglected and disrespectfully littered. It is the only tidiness black spot and in sharp contrast to the presentation of the Church of Ireland graveyard. There are a few sites near the Lagoon Activity Centre that could be wildlife locations or could be neglected sites, one wonders. There is a notable presence of litter about. One is surprised to find any litter because your anti litter signs surely create a conscience around littering. But your urgings and litter pickers at the beach seem to be effective. Hopefully they create a guilt about feeding the swans also. The treatment of farmyard sheds, now painted in two tones of grey, blends beautifully with the crescent of houses. But a rusty galvanised roof disturbs. So does an empty poster frame on a gable at Carberys Lane. Since my last visit to Rosscarbery the appearance of the village has been transformed, the interaction with the natural features of the locality and the preservation of your local biodiversity prioritised, your awareness of the use and abuse of energy and waste deepened and one senses a self confidence that promotes community pride.