

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **323**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2016**
01/08/2016

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47	48
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	41	42
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	45	45
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	36	37
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	21	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	61	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
TOTAL MARK	450	317	323

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a really great entry that is the first subject to be discussed. You are deserved much praise for heeding so well my colleague's comments from last year. Your entry was interesting, informative, easy to follow and so well laid out. As for the map: if only there were a separate prize for map presentation... It would go to Rosscarbery this year - beautiful to look at but also cleverly coded with a key on the sheet itself. Your plan, photo-montages and sign information were all helpful and relevant. An extra point for the standard of your entry materials this year and a sincere thanks to all who must have spend so much time on it. You have a goodly number of volunteers and core members. You name-check the most important bodies both statutory and commercial. Interestingly, you have links with An Taisce and historical societies and it was noted that there was a separate committee for your Four Patriots project. You draw in schools as well as the actively retired. Very good. The adjudicator liked how you summarised the benefits of your Tidy Towns work over the 41 years.

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

Very clearly set out in your entry form, the Built Environment initiatives undertaken were easily found. None are minor and one is a quite significant addition in terms of the streetscape. It's great that you are commemorating your local heroes in such a fashion. Where to start on your shopfronts? This was this adjudicator's first close look at the Square and was so impressed. Okay, some stand-outs: O'Brien's and Nolan's for traditional pub fronts well kept; the Market House for razor sharp signage and great presentation, Pilgrim's for great conservation and floral display. Even the most modern of sign design at the Max Bite was spotless. O'Reilly's Centra was equally clean and neat but the window stickers do not do this building or indeed the square any justice. The adjudicator would cite the Supervalu premises in Kinsale where they did away with the generic pictures and replaced them with local tableaux. Rosscarbery sits amid beautiful natural landscapes. They might be more appropriate than a 4ft picture of a kebab. The pharmacy had a gorgeous window display. Tully's would make a great space for exhibitions. The church - with its new steps - looked lovely. The grotto had good planting. The old Ardagh National School's windows are in poor condition and the window boxes on the gable do the building no great favours. The old sheds opposite are falling apart. It is acknowledged that some things may be outside of your control but please do consider these comments in your planning.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Again, your well-illustrated entry assisted in finding and assessing some of the hard work you have completed in the last year. It's noted that you combined Tree Week with your 1916 commemoration, well done. The planting at the Square was excellently balanced. Your tree-planting was inspected insofar as possible. A good long-term

investment for both landscape and wildlife. Lots of lovely pieces of work were seen from Tobar Andí to corners and wall-tops, all helping to keep Rosscarbery looking bright.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fíadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

Another good entry here, Rosscarbery. Some very common sense measures are described. You are aware of the need for native species in our built areas and you have also taken on several initiatives for pollinators. The Pollination Corridor is a highly appropriate and timely project and in line with the new Pollinator Plan. Newtown Forge Park has several wildlife-friendly features now. Not least of these is the good mixture of trees to which you have added some very suitable herbaceous planting. Be in no doubt as to the really important role that trees play in your landscape in Rosscarbery. An additional point is given here for your excellent work promoting measures for pollinators. The Japanese knotweed problem is a serious one for you and the adjudicator must admit that there are areas (e.g. at the waterfront) where it appears to be spreading unchecked.

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

Excellent news of the Green Schools' progress - very important for every Tidy Towns entrant. The students and pupils also walk to school betimes. You are upskilling yourselves thanks to West Cork Development Partnership and you are also spreading the message - very good. However, the adjudicator feels that you could be going a little further in this category. Next year, please see if you can find ways to get the waste management story out with some community-wide initiatives and some novel ways to raise awareness. For example, while bike hire might be available, how is this promoted or encouraged?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A no-nonsense and succinct entry here, well done. Twice-weekly litter-picks are easy to write but a big undertaking in terms of organisation, so you are to be commended for this. You mention involvement in a couple of litter-related competitions but do please state how you do and are ranked etc. Also, please let us know how many coastal clean-ups are carried out and when. Your tidiness-related projects are focused and relevant. Watch out for dirty signage such as the children warning signs and the Slí na Sláinte markers. A beautifully painted pump was noted.

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

You certainly appear to be well integrated with your residents and their groups. The Flower Display competition and table quiz are excellent initiatives. Thank you for the photo collage which speaks several thousand words! Additional points are awarded here for your recent and ongoing work. Some fantastic examples of ongoing use of old buildings or their conversion were seen

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

Again, an excellent entry here which made the assessment here so much easier. You focus on the right things and illustrate them well. The road resurfacing is a significant accomplishment. Once more, it's easy to say that the grass verges are taken care of by a team of volunteers, another to organise and maintain such efforts. It's a gorgeous little road leading up the secondary school with wall pennywort, Montbretia along roadsides overhung by mature beech. Watch out for a profusion of signage on the way into Rosscarbery, particularly commercial signs. An excellent balance of care and colour was seen on your main approach road in terms of planting.

Concluding Remarks:

A most enjoyable first adjudication to a town with real potential to excel further in this competition. Well done Rosscarbery.

Second Round Adjudication:

I was delighted to get the opportunity to visit your lovely place again this year; the weather was very disappointing - rained all day, but I greatly admired the advances that you have made in the years since my last visit. The first round adjudicator has given you a comprehensive report and I agree with the findings and increase in marks. Great views of the landscape and beaches with huge quantities of sea birds make this a magical place, and this was especially so viewed from the Celtic Ross hotel that has splendid landscaping in their own grounds. A variety of young and mature trees add considerably to the beauty of Rosscarbery. I admired the lovely shrubs, trees and flowers around the town that add liveliness and sparkle to the local environment.

I was pleased with your entry form, brilliant map and the many before and after photographs are great records for your achievements and will be very interesting records for your community in years to come. It was pleasant to find the sites of the photographs as I travelled along and viewed the great work done. Your Catholic Church is now further adorned and looks splendid. O'Callaghan Walshe was exceptional with the gold lettering and the Post Office was also in the running for "man of the match" award with great sliding sash windows. I loved the little children's playground near the waterfront.

The closed down school definitely needs attention and looked incongruous amongst all the other outstanding buildings and streetscape. I loved the great variety of traditional stone walls especially those with cock's comb and barrel capping.

Congratulations on a great community effort.