

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosscarbery** Ref: **691**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **308**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	40
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	308

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Rosscarbery is welcome back to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2014. We had previously made brief visits to Rosscarbery so were pleasantly surprised this time to discover that a beautiful village existed up the hill! Thank you for comprehensive entry form including back up information and photos. As your submission is lengthy, please clearly mark your folders 'entry' or 'Tidy Towns Plan'. Your map was most helpful and made our task at hand easier. Your committee of 14 members is forging good links with outside agencies such as Cork County Council, Fas and West Cork Development Partnership. We are glad to hear that the local businesses in are in support of your efforts. You are engaging well with schools and local clubs including Foroige. You communicate your messages via various channels including website, newsletter and text messaging. Have you considered a Facebook page? You have achieved a high standard in this competition and your hard work has made Rosscarbery a wonderful community in which to live, work or visit. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

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

Use of local stone and attractive landscaping ensures that the modern Celtic Ross Hotel blends in well with its amazing surroundings. One of the highlights was discovering the impressive 'Square' that makes up the focal point of the village, with its clean lines, attractive trees and street furniture! The recently lined road and car park spaces further enhanced this area. We admired the architectural period features and original sash windows on some buildings. Numerous premises caught our eye due to their fine presentation, including O' Brien's bar, Centra, post office, Market House Café, Nolan's pub, O' Callaghan Walshe Restaurant, Abbey Bar, Rosscarbery Pharmacy, Pilgrim's Rest, Barber shop. The COI Cathedral was admired. We liked the way Tricia's Hair Salon retained the original shop front signage. The street name signs were admired as was the 'old' post office. We liked the old fashioned Hubert's Crafts shop front. Rangers have a superb facility at the top of the hill while the secondary school is hidden behind some fine mature trees. We admired the unusual sculptures made from stained glass. Recent work at the graveyard entrance was noted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The 'Quay Garden' opposite the hotel is a popular picnic spot for visitors. The flower bed, green area and picnic facilities were all in good order. We admired the roses and a lovely beech hedge at the Forge Park. The flower beds at the Square bring a sense of cohesion to this space. Rebecca's Beauty Salon has an assortment of flowers and plants to brighten up this end of the street. A thriving Virginia creeper on the GAA wall softens this landscape. Small pockets of landscaping throughout Rosscarbery give an air of pride and tidiness. Steep banks of ox-eye daisies caught the eye as we walked uphill towards the Square. There are plenty of well-maintained amenity areas where visitors can sit and admire the views. We are delighted to hear that you have been carrying out further tree planting.

Are these native species?

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

Rosscarbery enjoys a beautiful setting with a variety of habitats from beach to woodland. Wildlife is abundant. We were delighted to see people enjoying water sports on the lagoon. You have some wonderful laneways for walking and enjoying wildlife. These include the Serpentine Road, Pier Road and Warren Road. The Warren Strand was busy yet clean.

Your main focus for this category is in the Forge Park area, where you are aiming to increase biodiversity and encourage wildlife. The new footbridge here looks well. Landscaping is kept simple here as trees are the star attraction.

Well done for involving the secondary school in your tree planting initiative. The wildlife signs at the Quay Garden and Warren Cross were noted. We read the history of the forge with interest. Picnic tables were in good order. We admired the colourful bird boxes!

We would recommend that you make particular school links with any schools working on their 'biodiversity' green flag to see if you can work together on a particular project.

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

We are delighted to hear that all three schools are involved in Green Schools – thank you for providing details and keep us updated next year. Well done for carrying out waste surveys in conjunction with the schools and thank you for including your results. We must give credit to the students for speaking at your 'Waste Prevention' talk, organised in conjunction with Cork County Council's Environmental Awareness Office. You are making efforts to conserve water. Your ongoing recycling initiatives are noted. Does the hotel have any interesting systems in place to save energy, water etc? Visit www.localprevention.ie/tidytowns to see what other initiatives are happening around the country. We look forward to hearing of further progress next year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We are delighted to hear that you are involved in Green Coasts and that the school children and youth group are involved in your litter clean ups. Your 'no dog fouling' were noted at Forge Park as were anti-litter signs elsewhere. The bottle banks were in excellent order with attractive landscaping. Have you ever entered them for the 'Best Bring Bank' Special Award? Your participation in events such as National Spring Clean and Cork Co Co's anti-litter challenge are further assisting you in motivating the community. Your challenges regarding post-storm clean ups are acknowledged.

You are striking an air of tidiness about Rosscarbery. We get the impression you are paying attention to detail yet you are still managing to avoid the manicured look which wouldn't work in your natural environment – well done!

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

Residences along the streets were freshly painted and colourful. Some were enhanced with window boxes or tubs. Individual homes and gardens were neatly presented. Well done to all involved. The roadside directly to the rear of Forge Park has a somewhat weedy surface, otherwise this row of properties is neat. On the Glandore Road, it is disappointing that the fenced off housing development has to block up the footpath. Apart from this issue and the unsightly fence, the houses themselves look fine, particularly the two occupied homes. We are surprised you didn't refer to this in your entry form, under this category. Please give us an update next time. The Courtyard with its cheerful red colour scheme was neat. Try to encourage use of Irish translation for any future residential signage. The large private garden behind the hotel was admired. Carbery Court was neat as were the self-catering holiday cottages. Do you have any residents associations or can you encourage them to get started?

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

The causeway itself is one of the highlights of Rosscarbery. Road surfacing is good on approach roads as are road markings and traffic calming. You have obviously put a lot of thought into your new stone beds at your entrance roads. The attractive signs include the lovely Irish translation and will assist in further defining your boundaries and making Rosscarbery even more welcoming. The picnic area on the N71 layby was well maintained apart from the road surfacing at one entrance, which was poor. The beech hedge near the playground is maturing nicely to screen off the unattractive fence. Surfacing around the GAA entrance is poor.