

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneen** Ref: **557**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **311**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	51	52
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	303	311

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Cloneen (An Cluanín) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your detailed entry form and supporting material including your three-year plan for Cloneen 2018 – 2020. For such a small village (129 people) you have a very active committee of twenty-five members including two youth members. In addition, you have ten volunteers who assist in various projects when you need help. We see that you get help from a great number of state and semi state bodies, whom you list in your application form, which is commendable. You communicate your activities with the village and wider community via your website, the parish newsletters, local newspapers and text messaging. We encourage you to set up a Facebook page not only to have ownership of the 'domain name' but also to communicate with the younger people. We were very happy to read of a Junior Tidy Town's group set up by the school and that you are in communication with them. We see you have entered the TidyTowns competition for eleven years and that this provides a focal point for the village. We agree with you when you say that involvement nurtures a sense of pride in one's area and we are delighted to read that you also consider membership to be a social event. We encourage you to keep up your good work.

A little advice on filling up the form and producing the map(s). In the application form, please number the projects as new N1, N2, N3..., maintained M1, M2, M3 ..., and Future Projects FP1, FP2, FP3 and then put these numbers on the map(s) so that the adjudicator can differentiate between the projects and see your hard work.

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

Your pretty village is set in the rural landscape and has a mixture of single and two-storey vernacular architecture. Many of these are quite old and we were delighted to see that the thatch house is soon to be repaired. The RC church with its limestone bellcote is an important building in the village. The nearby ruins of the 13th century church and surrounding graveyard add to the character of the village. We loved the stone stile in one of the exterior walls to the graveyard. We noted that a 13th century grave-slab was discovered in the graveyard which is now in the care of Tipperary Museum. Perhaps at some future date a replica of the slab could be made and placed in the graveyard as a tourist attraction. The business premises of Anglim's bar presented well with its freshly painted walls and doors. With the seats and floral displays it added to the streetscape. We see it is for sale and hopefully it will be sold as a going concern. Are the street lights LEDs? You mentioned they were new but didn't say what types of bulbs. The Millennium Monument with the Ogham Stone was beautiful in its simplicity and we were happy to see the one very large planter in the area. We were delighted to see that Cloneen retains its Post Office with the grocery store attached.

You had quite a few new projects this year in addition to those which you maintain and we commend you for these. We see that you are also planning future projects and we wish you well in these particularly the water feature at the quarry which will be a great asset to the village. We saw that you have already commenced this project. The

memorial bench in the graveyard was noted – a tribute to one of your members.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We admired the hanging baskets on the railings of the church with their great display of white flowers contrasting with the green foliage. Many buildings on the main street had very rich floral displays which added to the beauty of the village. You had an array of hanging baskets and planters around the town with some at strategic locations for added effect. We liked the two-tiered hanging displays which had great trailing plants in addition to floral displays. Both baskets and planters were absolutely beautiful with many of the flowers pollinator friendly which we were delighted to see. You have worked very hard in maintenance to have such wonderful floral displays and we congratulate you on the results. We see that you co-ordinated the colour in the floral displays and personally we liked this, rather than a mishmash of clashing colours. St. Patrick's GAA club grounds are very well kept and we wonder if they have considered providing a walking track around the perimeter for the use of the whole community. This would be a great asset for the club and for the whole village. We loved the weeping willow in the school grounds. Would you consider some more trees in the village? Buildouts could be provided along the streets and trees planted in these. Perhaps this could be something for the future.

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

With the great many stone walls which are a habitat for insects and the tall trees in the surrounding area as roosting site for birds your village has already quite a lot in terms of nature and biodiversity. Cloneen's Flora and Fauna signs are delightful and placed in a good location for all to read. There is great information on the various animals, birds and wild flowers which can be seen. We loved the photographs which you've used for the various sections – the animals, birds and flowers. We see that you received funding to have a survey undertaken of the ecology in the area which you intend undertaking in the summer of 2018. Please include this in next year's application as the adjudicator will be very interested in this project. The wildflower area which you've planted at Garrenkyle lane was beautiful and full of insects, butterflies and bees. These additional wildflower areas will certainly help the pollinators and who knows maybe in time, someone in the area will take on beekeeping. You mentioned you have bird boxes and we wonder have any birds visited. Please let us know in next year's application form.

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

We see that you send text messages rather than use posters to inform the community of events/ activities in the village. Have you a communal What's App group for this and is every household in the What's App group? We were delighted that the interest in 'growing you own vegetables' was there but disappointed to read that only two took on the activity. We suggest maybe a communal garden/ allotments area might encourage more to become involved as it would then become a social event as well as a gardening event. We noted the raised beds in the school so we suggest that some of the parents might be interested in an allotment as a continuation of what their children learn in school. We noted the solar powered speed sign and commend Tipperary Co Co for installing this. We wonder if the talks on general waste management and upcycling during the summer had a good involvement from the community. Tell us about them in next year's application. While we know that planting flowers in painted old tyres is seen in many communities personally we're not in favour of them (don't like them) and think they should be sent for shredding and recycling. You mentioned water butts in the village but didn't show the location on a map so we didn't find them. Mark their location on the map next year please. Have any of the residents installed water butts? This is something you could encourage and perhaps arrange a reduced price from a supplier for bulk buying. We saw the blue watering barrel on the hand pushed trolley and see from the beautiful floral displays that it gets great use. What a clever invention! We commend you in using nettles as an alternative to plant food and from the great floral displays we witnessed that it works very well for you.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was virtually no litter in your village so we are happy to say that your litter pick-ups are working well for you. Unfortunately weed growth was noticed along many of the roads and some footpaths. We see that you undertake a litter patrol two evenings a week and we suggest that you ask the team to bring a hoe with them so as to also remove weeds while they pick up litter. This is done by other communities and works well for them. We loved the pump area but it was unkempt with litter, debris and weeds which was a pity. Having such an historic graveyard in your community is excellent and rare and we were disappointed to see its condition with brambles and weeds growing on the ruins of the old church and in the graveyard itself. We see that ivy had been cut in the past and we commend this. We suggest you get the advice of the archaeologist from National Monuments on suitable clean-up work which you can undertake.

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

Being in rural Ireland, the houses in your village are, like many other rural villages, a mix of vernacular single and two-storey properties. Those in the surrounding countryside are good quality farmhouses and many have large yards which are surrounded by well-kept outbuildings. The houses in the centre of the village were well maintained and many had beautiful floral displays which gave great colour to the street. The 'new' house at the junction of the Fethard and Killusty roads was particularly well maintained. The design is very much in keeping with traditional Irish building with its up and down sash windows and plaster banding and reveals. The raised garden was beautifully maintained and we admired the bright red floral displays in the raised planters. We also greatly admired the house opposite the thatch house with its steps from the roadway. The garden was ablaze of colour and we'd loved to have visited! The communal green spaces of Mountain View estate were neatly cut and edges neatly trimmed. We

admired the large stone with the name. Perhaps the stone could be washed to brighten it just a little. We see that trees have been planted on the entrance roadway and when these mature there will be a very pleasant approach to the estate. The residents in Mountain View look after their properties very well and many had been freshly painted and were very appealing. Some had flowerboxes and planters with great colourful displays and those with gardens were clean and tidy and had shrubs and flowers in great profusion.

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

Hedges were neatly trimmed on the approach roads and where there were grass margins, these had been cut and looked very presentable. Road surfaces were poor in quite a few areas of the village with many potholes and edge break up along many of the roads. Do you know if you are in line for resurfacing? Needless to say, with poor roads quality comes poor road marking and yours were non-existent in many cases. These we know will be repainted when the roads are repaired/resurfaced. Road directional signs and speed signs were clear, clean and legible. The one near the bridge however couldn't be read as it was behind branches. The new concrete footpaths were noticed and admired. The green margins on the access roads were, as we said, neatly trimmed. We suggest that a row of say, mountain ash or some other such tree, be planted to give a visually controlled access to your village on all of these green spaces.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to your village and look forward to coming back and seeing the house rethatched and other projects, particularly the quarry project completed.
Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2018 competition.