

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Celbridge** Ref: **338**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **295**
Category: **G** Date(s): **24/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	37	38
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	14	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	450	289	295

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for an excellent entry this year. This was so nicely laid out and well-illustrated - it was a pleasure to read although wordier in sections than needed. You also included a very relevant and recent document that you had devised for your town. This was very concise and to the point. So also was your Tidy Towns Plan - again very well laid-out and focused. An extra point is awarded here for each document. You supplied useful maps but a key (not just numbers on your main document) would have been even better.

There is no question as to the focus and dedication to cause of your group. Nor is there any doubt about your engagement with others. Your communications with Kildare County Council appear extremely good. Overall your structures seem to be very sound. You are engaging well with schools. You're adept at using media telling by your clippings and have embraced Facebook - a really useful tool for Tidy Towns.

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

You have been involved in many projects this year - too many to discuss fully here. However, suffice it say that you appear to focus on the 'bigger picture' and put your energies into important and sustainable initiatives. The under-grounding of cables is an issue you've taken to heart and t-shirts (they were much admired, well done!). Keep up the pressure. You've made submissions on the LADP - great, this is what Tidy Towns groups are for as far as this adjudicator is concerned. Equally relevant is your work on the Greenway Project - excellent, these are transformative amenities. You also give your energies to planning and enforcement issues, another very important function of the Tidy Towns group.

St Wolstan's shopping centre was very neat. The recycling banks were in good condition. The Mill is a beautiful old building. It now has multiple uses: community centre, fitness / martial arts studio... The Mucky Duck and Village Inn both look very good. The Bank of Ireland looked very clean. O'Connor's is a lovely little pub. The Espresso Project is a very funky little café. On a larger scale, Christchurch Church of Ireland is a beautiful building. There was a little litter here and the signs on the side gate are in need of attention.

The NCBI shop looked fantastic and this is such a lovely building too. There was excellent treatment of the windows in the empty house on Main Street. The Esso Station / Spar was very neat and tidy although busy. The Mill's Spin Classes could be better advertised than with this poor quality old mountain bike tied to a wall.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You've described a number of projects in this category. The adjudicator was interested to learn that you can contract out grass-cutting. One wonders how that can be funded. Your plans to open a link between the Slip and Castletown are noted - an excellent initiative. Your plans for a small space and a wildlife park are to be applauded.

The roses at the cottage near the estate gates were greatly admired. Consistent planting was noted in the wooden tubs throughout the town. This is very effective, well done. Some lovely examples of how hanging baskets should be done were noted - e.g. at the opticians.

The landscaping work in front of Simmonstown estate was lovely.

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

Your group has been busy in this category over the last year. You have usefully engaged experts to assist you in celebrating and exploring your wild spaces and species. This included an ecology report for the Tea lane project.

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

It was felt that your submission could have been stronger in this category. While clear and very well laid out there was insufficient substance. The reusable shopping bags are now de rigeur for supermarkets. You should give us examples of how you encourage the use of rainwater collectors. Derrybeg Farm did catch the eye though. How does the direct selling work? The statistics on cycling were also of interest (personal and professional). These are great numbers of cyclists. In a similar recent survey of the 2nd level college in this adjudicator's (rural) home town it was 0%, so well done on promoting the bike lanes and safer more attractive streets.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You've been focused and generally successful in these areas of late. While the under-grounding of cables isn't yet a job done, you're getting there. You're also going to see your streetscape clear of unwanted telephone kiosks - a rarity now in most of Ireland. You actively tackle posters and litter. The adjudicator was impressed with your Sunday morning roster - great stuff. How many people will that see out? The ongoing competitions among businesses and entreaties to improve are noted. These are the way to go.

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

The adjudicator was amazed at the number of housing estates there are in Celbridge. Just getting around to them all would be something! But you appear to do so and also make reference to those who still live 'over the shop' in your main street area. Your entry suggests that you've a bit to do yet before you are on top of all of the issues. However, the inter-estate competitions and useful events such as the table quizzes are getting you there.

Riverview Townhouses and Apartments looked very well - fairly gleaming at time of survey. St Wolstan's Abbey has beautifully kept green areas and nice tree-planting. It is recommended not to plant around the base of trees, however. Castletown's housing estates have surely one of the nicest entrances of any in Ireland. The mature trees here add so much. The information and community noticeboards in the town centre were greatly admired, well done.

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

Litter-picking - even that on approach roads - should be reported in the Tidiness and Litter Control category (above). You report very useful dialogue and communications with Kildare County Council on important areas such as your stone walls.

The signs on the Dublin Road were very much admired. Can the Harris fencing at the church be replaced with something that looks a little better? Newtown Road looked well on the day. Clare Road is very leafy and pleasant. The entrance to Castletown Estate is beautiful and the avenue here is such a lovely 'garden' for the town. The pedestrian bridge makes all the difference if you are cycling or on foot getting through Celbridge. Traffic was heavy at time of visit.

Concluding Remarks:

A really excellent entry that speaks volumes of your commitment and dedication to making Celbridge better. Well done!