



Celbridge – Silver Medal Winner 2015 - Bronze Medal Winner 2013/2014

Celbridge Tidy Towns Annual Awards 2015

Best Commercial Floral display:

- 1st Castletown Inn
- 2nd Abbey Lodge & The Mill (joint 2nd)
- 3rd Liffey View Physiotherapy

Highly Commended

Centra
Colortrend

Best New Entry

Da Mario

Best Commercial Premises:

- 1st Michelangelo Restaurant
- 2nd Abbey Beauty Salon
- 3rd Hogan's Café Bistro

Highly Commended

Bank of Ireland
Bella Mia Boutique
O'Connor's (Hibernian House)
O'Riada Solicitors
Ulster Bank

Best New Entries

Baobab Coffee Roasters
Shine Haircare

Artistic Endeavour

Absolutely Fabulous Flowers
Miriam Porter Optician
St. Patrick's Church Floral Committee

Best Large Estates:

1st: St. Wolstan's Abbey
2nd: Primrose Gate
3rd: Abbey Farm

Best Medium Estates:

1st: Temple Manor
2nd: Celbridge Abbey
3rd: Ballygoran View/Court

Best Small Estates:

1st: Grattan Court
2nd: Little Grove
3rd: Killadoon Park

***** Overall Best Estate - Grattan Court *****

Large Estates Reviews

This year we were again delighted by the very high standards and the almost complete absence of litter. We decided to be generous in our marking to those estates where we observed improvement works carried out since last year.

Abbey Farm

The estate was litter free and the greens are kept in excellent order. Individual houses are all well maintained and gardens are mature and established. We feel that the Estate should introduce some new improvements in displays etc. to develop on it's already high standard.

Ballymakealy/Springfield

We noticed a great improvement in this estate on previous years. There is a new ornamental garden that looks great and enhances the area and there was only the minimum of litter in evidence. The greens had been maintained and grass cuttings collected and we loved the art feature in the estate. Well done to all concerned and keep up the great work.

Beatty Park

We loved the floral display at the entrance. Some grass verges were in better condition than others and if individual cul de sacs were to make little flower beds it would really enhance the estate's appearance. Again we found no evidence of litter throughout the estate.

Castletown

The entrance from the Main Street is very pleasing, as is the road right up to the top entrance with its lovely floral display. The area around Cherrywood could do with some more enhancement to add to the estate's overall appearance. Well done on the litter free effort.

Castle Village

The verges and green areas are well maintained in this estate and overall the estate was very clean on the day we visited. Again we recommend that more effort in floral displays would really improve the appearance of the estate. The trees are also at an age where they would benefit from a trimming back later in the year.

Crodaun Forest Park

As usual we loved the area around the stream and it is obviously a source of pride for the residents, as they maintain it so well. At the western entrance the green is well looked after and pleasant. While some trees seem to have been pruned we felt that more of this would add to the sense of light throughout the estate. Again this estate was litter free so well done to all.

Hazelhatch Park

This large estate is always maintained to a very high standard and there was no litter in evidence on the day of our visit. We were impressed by the neatly trimmed hedges and grass verges throughout the estate. Despite being an estate that is used by through traffic and the unsightly pylon the overall impression, thanks to good maintenance, is very positive.

Oldtown Mill

This estate has a nice mixture of housing and apartment designs and its green areas are in excellent condition. There is a small amount of litter and graffiti in one area but overall the estate has a very pleasing appearance. Well done!

Primrose Gate

This estate is always neat and kept in the highest state of repair, despite its large size and the presence of shops at its entrance. There is an excellent mix of house designs, all with neatly kept gardens and the greens and verges are to be proud of. Well done for consistent high standards.

St. Patricks Park

We have noticed how the green maintenance has improved a lot and the grass cuttings being collected has improved their appearance. The Oldtown Road entrance looked really well the day we visited and the estate was litter free. More floral displays would greatly enhance the estate's improving appearance.

St. Raphael's Manor

We thought the undulating open area in The Courtyard was very attractive and the greens were all well maintained. Perhaps some of the trees in the estate could be trimmed back later in the year with Council assistance. We loved the floral displays at the two entrance areas. (We heard some unwelcome persons loved them too and removed some plants?) St Raphael's is becoming well established and maturing well. Well done all!

St. Wolstan's Abbey

Last year's winner has gone on to build on their success by adding tasteful flower boxes at the base of trees throughout the estate and the result is most pleasing and colourful. Flower pots were even used to cover manholes and the colourful brick and varied house and apartment designs make the estate a very pleasant place to live in or visit. The estate is maturing well and thanks to the very obvious improvement work by residents, we awarded it again our highest mark this year.

The Grove

We observed a big improvement to the entrance and green area and work on tidying up the grass verges was in progress throughout the estate. The result of all of this effort was a great improvement in the estate's overall appearance. We thought much of the signs within the estate were clear and effective and there was little evidence of litter. Well done to all involved in improving the appearance of the estate.

Wolstan Haven

The green areas are well looked after and the estate is in a well maintained condition generally. Some of the trees could be trimmed back with council assistance later in the year? Overall the estate has a pleasant appearance.

Again this year we noticed a greater effort all round and an almost complete absence of litter.

Medium Estates Reviews

Ballygoran View/Court

Green areas in View and Court very well maintained. Some grass verges were overgrown. Three or four trees on the first green needed attention. Some litter on day of judging. Lovely gardens and premises noted.

Beatty Grove

All open spaces beautifully kept and edged. Lovely flowers in shrubberies noted this year. Weeds at kerbs and grass verges need attention at some corners. At one corner an ESB box was knocked over. The estate would benefit greatly from wall at back being painted. Some litter noted on day of judging.

Callenders Mills

This year shrubbery and fence at entrance needed attention. Fence on rd. 3 is still broken. Weeds at kerbs were noted. There was some improvement on area across the road. Attractive houses and gardens noted.

Celbridge Abbey

Beautifully kept entrance and level of general maintenance was high. However several grass verges were in need of attention. Problem cul-de-sac, mentioned in previous reports, had deteriorated. Some litter was noted on day of judging.

Dara Court

On day of judging this estate looked very well. At entrance the cotoneaster hedge is developing nicely and lovely trees on opposite side. In the crescent the left hand side of green was overgrown with weeds, the wall opposite needs painting and some verges needed attention. Elsewhere the estate was impressive with a number of houses freshly painted. Concrete walls would improve with painting.

Temple Manor

As usual the entrance to the estate was magnificent on day of judging. While general maintenance throughout was very impressive, judge was disappointed to note the ivy on the front boundary wall, mentioned last year, has not been attended to and is attracting litter at base. Well done on winning first place in medium estate competition.

Thornhill Gardens

Lovely entrance, green space beautifully maintained and lovely planting in boxes. Some attractive houses and gardens were noted. Walls still not painted. Well done on litter and weed control.

Thornhill Heights

Entrance to estate gives poor impression and unmaintained flower boxes should be removed. Generally throughout the estate unattended grass verges and weeds noted. Some nice houses and gardens were noted. No litter on day of visit.

Thornhill Meadows

Open space at entrance is a beautifully maintained uniform space. Judge noted that the boxes around the trees have been removed. Some weeds at kerbs and some grass verges needed attention, particularly at corners.

Vanessa Lawns

The upkeep of this estate falls into two halves. The Shackleton Rd. end of the estate is perfectly maintained and the green is beautifully cut and edged. The other green, by the stream, is not edged or weeded. If a maintenance team is employed their attention should be brought to the poor finish of the work. Improvement noted in the stream area, but shrubbery near bridge needs attention. It was noted that many houses were painted and well presented this year.

Willowbrook Grove/Park

Houses at entrance are well presented and bungalow cul-de-sac in Willowbrook Lodge was perfectly maintained. However judges felt in general the estate could benefit greatly from a tidy up of verges, kerbs, edging of green and painting of walls. Sign at entrance to Willowbrook Grove needs attention. Four lovely planters were noted in this part of the estate.

Willowbrook Lawns

Estate looked better this year at time of judging because of road resurfacing thus removing kerbside weeds. Most houses and gardens presented well, but many grass verges were still neglected. On front road two junction boxes needed to be replaced or removed. Concrete planters, where not planted up should be removed.

Small Estates Reviews

Ashgrove

Grass verges outside houses showed a good improvement since last year. Gardens and green spaces were well maintained. There was a lot of litter about on the day of judging. The management of weeds on roadside kerbs are still a problem in this estate.

Ashleigh Court

This estate has again shown no improvement from previous years.

Chelmsford

The development work of the adjoining estate is ongoing and some improvements were noted at the entrance of the estate. Some planting on the left of the entrance would enhance its' appearance. It was noted that the estate was free of litter but there were some weeds along roadsides.

Chestnut Grove

There appears to be little sign of work being done in the estate. The hedge on the right of the entrance is overgrown. Weeds need to be cleared on roadside verges. Some gardens could do with improvement.

Elm Park

The green space at back of estate is well maintained. Some weeds on roadside kerb. Shrubbery at the entrance needs a lot of attention.

Grattan Court

The estate looked very well and there was a notable absence of weeds and litter throughout. The potted flowers and the flowers at the entrance to the small green looked very colourful. The overall appearance of the estate looked very well and it's obvious that the residents have done a lot of work this year.

Hawthorn View

The judges were disappointed at the general appearance of the entrance to the estate. Much work is needed to improve the look of an estate which has great potential. Green open space was reasonably well maintained but shrubs in the flower beds need to be pruned and cut back. Litter is still a problem. Houses and gardens looked well.

Killadoon Park

The estate was well presented on the day of judging. Green spaces were well maintained and a wild flower garden was noted. More flower beds would enhance the estate.

Larkfield Mews

Improvements need to be made to enhance the appearance of this estate. No effort seems to have been made over the past year.

Little Grove

The estate continued the good work which was evident last year. There is good colour in the flower beds and gardens and open spaces all looked very well. Again the judges were impressed by the appearance and the work done by the residents.

Oakleigh

The Open spaces are well maintained. However, trees need to be pruned and some grass verges need attention.

Simmonstown Manor

The judges considered that the estate looked quite well but it did not show any improvement from last year. It was suggested that some flower beds could be added which would give a bit of colour. Houses and gardens looked well.

Simmonstown Park

The general appearance looked very well. The addition of some colour by adding flower beds would make a big improvement to this estate.

Temple Lawns and Primrose Hill

It seems that a good effort was made here with nice seating and planting and little evidence of kerb-side weeds. There was no litter evident on day of judging. Some trees would benefit from being pruned.

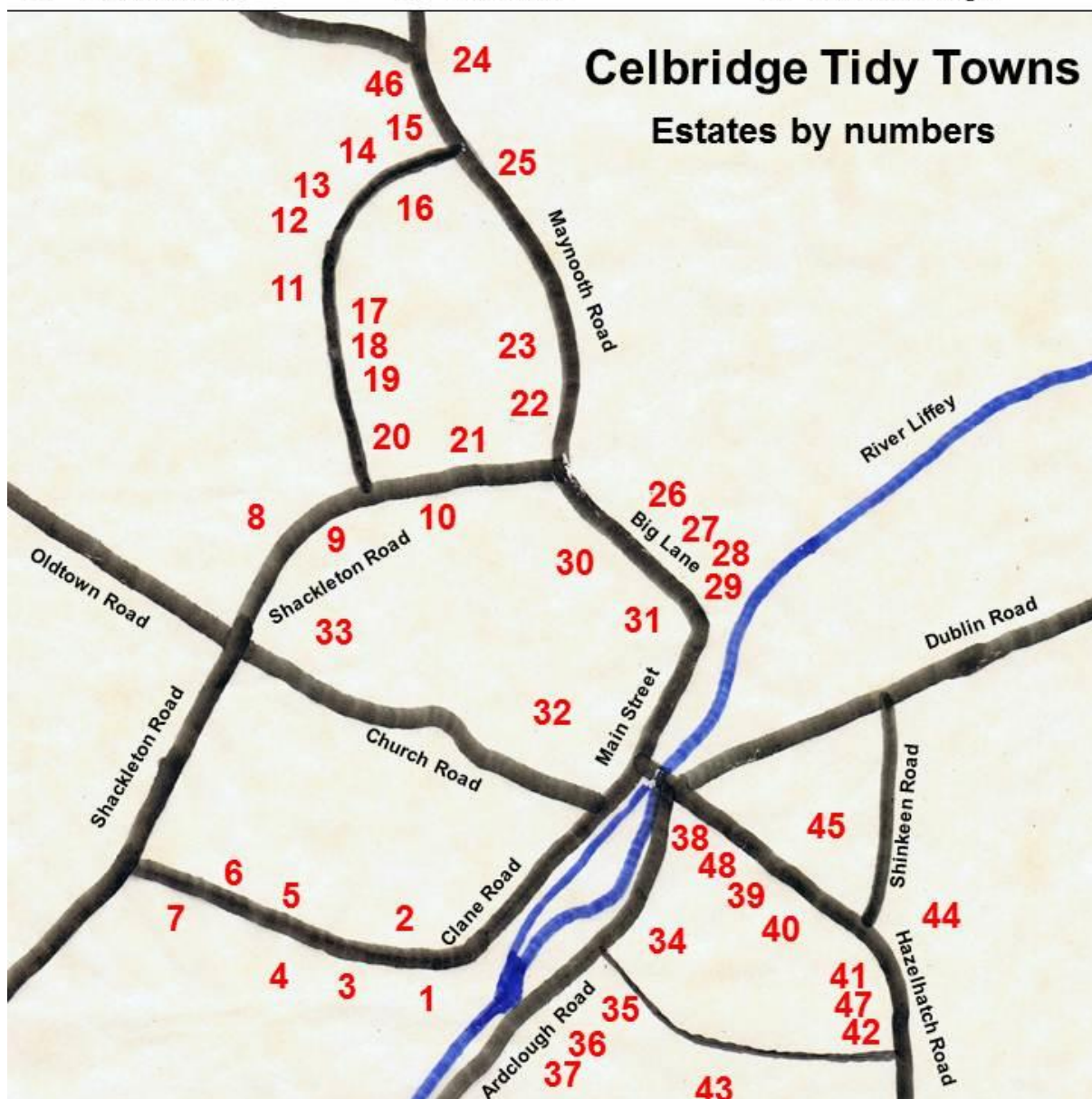
Vanessa Close

There were trees removed around the green since last year and this has helped to improve the appearance of the area. The stream continues to be a problem. There has been an improvement since last year.

Whitethorn

This estate has again shown no improvement from previous years.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Abbey Farm | 16. Ashgrove | 31. Elm Park |
| 2. St Raphaels Manor | 17. Willowbrook Lodge | 32. St Patricks Park |
| 3. Celbridge Abbey | 18. Willowbrook Park | 33. Vanessa Close |
| 4. Ballymakealy | 19. Willowbrook Grove | 34. The Grove |
| 5. Oakleigh | 20. Willowbrook Lawns | 35. Simmonstown Manor |
| 6. Grattan Court | 21. Whitethorn | 36. Temple Manor |
| 7. Kiladoon Park | 22. Beatty park | 37. Chelmsford |
| 8. Oldtown Mill | 23. Beatty Grove | 38. The Little Grove |
| 9. Wolstan Haven | 24. Crodaun Forest Park | 39. Primrose Hill |
| 10. Vanessa Lawns | 25. Hawthorn View | 40. Temple Lawns |
| 11. Thornhill Heights | 26. Chesnut Grove | 41. Simmonstown Park |
| 12. Thornhill Gardens | 27. Larkfield Mews | 42. Hazelhatch Park |
| 13. Ballygoran Court/View | 28. Ashleigh Court | 43. Callenders Mill |
| 14. Thornhill Meadows | 29. Castletown Estate | 44. Primrose Gate |
| 15. Castle Village | 30. Dara Court | 45. Wolstan Abbey |
| 46. Thornhill Court | 47. Hazelwood | 48. Primrose Village |



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 / Tirdhreachú 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 Dramháiola 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!

Silver for Celbridge – Even Better to Come

“A really excellent entry that speaks volumes of your commitment and dedication to making Celbridge better.”

That’s how the adjudicators summed up this year’s entry by Celbridge Tidy Towns which earned it a silver medal for the first time in its 22 years of participation in the competition.

Chairman of Celbridge Tidy Towns Committee, Michael Connolly, said that this win is not only a great achievement and a tribute to the amount work being done in the area, but it is also an incentive to work towards even greater progress in the future. Many of the local projects that were praised by the adjudicators are very much work in progress and their full effect has yet to be seen. These include the flagship Village Enhancement Project, involving the undergrounding of unsightly cables, removal of poles and other street clutter and installation of attractive street furniture in keeping with the historic ambience of the Village. Similarly, projects in the pipeline include a Centenary Garden at the Maynooth Road entrance to the town, and improvement of the Castletown Gate/Slip area and in the vicinity of the Mill and Liffey Bridge, which will further enhance the Village centre and, bring a greater focus on the River Liffey as a natural centrepiece of the Village’s life.

Celbridge’s 2015 Tidy Towns application can be viewed at www.celbridgetidytowns.com/ along with the adjudicators’ report and the Tidy Towns Committee’s 5-Year Plan, which details the above projects and a further ambitious programme for the coming years. The work of the Tidy Towns Committee is not just about trying to make the area look pretty. There is also a huge social and economic dividend to be gained from enhancing the physical character and quality of life of an area. As acknowledged by the adjudicators, Celbridge Tidy Towns has been working very hard to advance the cause of Celbridge in the context of a range of important plans and strategies that are currently being developed. Already this year, substantial submissions were made in relation to the new Local Area Plan and the Kildare Local Economic and Social Plan. Members of the Committee have also played a lead role in the formulation of a Celbridge Heritage Tourism Strategy which is due to be launched shortly under the auspices of the local Heritage Tourism Forum which was established during the past year. The Strategy sets out a framework to capitalise on the inherent assets of the area in terms of heritage, history, amenities and strategic location.

Michael also drew attention to the scope for improvement in a number of respects, listing 4 issues in particular as important to further success:

1. Greater public participation in the tidy towns effort – there are currently some 50 to 60 volunteers responsible for on-street work, fund-raising, engagement with relevant agencies and administration and project development. Clearly there is scope for a greater level of participation from a population of over 20,000. The Tidy Towns Committee will be looking at how it can get across its message more effectively and improve its engagement with the community. The Committee are encouraging as many people as possible to attend its local awards night in Celbridge Library on 22nd October, which will also be an opportunity to celebrate the success in the national competition.
2. Continued leadership and action on the part of public representatives and organisations, including the provision of greater resources for the projects set out in the 5-year plan and also to address some environmental black spots in the area. The advent of the new

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District should help Celbridge build on the momentum of this year's success. As budget time approaches, councillors are invited to bear this in mind.

3. Support from the local business community. Many of the business and private premises in the village have been improved by painting and general maintenance in the past year. Celbridge Tidy Towns is calling on the Local Business Community for a concerted campaign against inappropriate signage, especially in the Village. The presence of inappropriate signage and posterage detracts from the overall presentation of the village and is not conducive to the development of Celbridge as a heritage tourism village and hinders economic development.
4. Resolve by every citizen in Celbridge to eradicate the blight of litter and particularly to instil that ethic in young people from a very early age. Schools have a key role here and Tidy Towns acknowledge the great work being done in the schools, seven of whom are involved in the Green Flag programme. Of course, learning begins at home and we encourage all the residents to become more conscious of littering and recycling. Earlier this summer Kildare County Council at the request of Tidy Towns had the village Main St cleaned of chewing gum, and we hope that people will in future bin their gum. A very real problem which needs to be addressed is the presence of dog faeces on the streets of the village and estates. Dog lovers in particular are reminded that the "dog poo fairy" does not collect those little plastic bags left by the side of the road or thrown in the hedges.

In winning the silver medal in 2015, Celbridge has increased its points total in the Tidy Towns competition for the 9th year in a row, building on bronze medals in 2013 and 2014. The Committee are looking forward to even greater things in the future and, Michael added, as the results of our work become more visible to everyone, we would hope that there will be even greater public participation, in working towards a shared vision of making Celbridge a highly desirable location to visit, live, work, or do business.