

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Doon - Dun Bleisce** Ref: **717**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **305**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	60	42	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	38	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	16	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	36
TOTAL MARK	470	300	305

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Doon (Dún Bleisce) chuig comórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2019. Thank you for your entry form, clear map with separate legend, and supporting documentation including you Action Plan 2017-2019 and Biodiversity report on the bog trail. If you are submitting photographs with the entry it's best that you insert them into the relevant area of the form e.g. insert the photographs on gardening into the Sustainability category. You have eight on committee and get help from ten when you need help. For the Team Limerick Clean Up 5 you had approximately eighty volunteers which is wonderful. Communicating your projects and activities to the whole community is vital for the success of a Tidy Towns group and you open your AGM to all, use the parish newsletter, the local newspaper, and the local radio. We tried to access the dunbleisce.com website but was told the address could not be found. Is there a problem with this web address? Have you thought about a Facebook Page or an Instagram account so that you will also access the youth of the community?

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

You have a large number of buildings and shopfronts which add architectural merit to your streetscape – Doon Pharmacy, R. Martin, Patrick Ryan, D. Danaher, Whelehan's, Lysaght, N. Rainsford Grocer, Hibernian House, J. O'Dwyer, Moore, Richardson Butchers (we admired the signage and murals of the animals), the old RIC Barracks, and of course the old forge. Some of these have been converted to residences but we are delighted that the owners knew the value of the shopfront and retained them and their names. We noted others where the names had been removed ... is it possible to have these reinstated? We liked the new stone wall along the boundary of Scoil Na Tríonaíde Naofa. Is there a reason it was made so high? There is no surveillance for those walking along the road which is a pity as this makes one feel more protected/safe if walking alone. The Grotto was very pleasant – some weed growth on the stone wall but nothing too serious. The round capping made from small stones on the new natural stone wall was admired. We haven't seen this style of capping anywhere else.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

While there is no large Green Space in your village you have quite a few green areas which you have undertaken to maintain. We loved the 'hill' at Assumption Terrace. The area around the forge is quite attractive – remove weeds on the paved area outside the door. The GAA grounds on the R507 are located beside the new school which is a great use of community facilities. The grounds were very neat and tidy and the railings at the edge of the pitch had been freshly painted. The sign about Insurance is interesting! The playground is excellent with a variety of equipment to suit all ages. The planting in the raised bed, along the boundary of the house as we entered along the R507, is very beautiful with its great array of pollinator friendly flowers. We noted that you have built planting beds

in strategic locations e.g. at the forge, under village name signs etc. This is a good strategy to carefully select a location which will have maximum impact. Too often we see rows of planters (all of which take time to water and feed) put in arbitrary locations in villages. The graveyards were neat and tidy.

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

The Kilmoylan Bog Walk is an excellent Loop Walk bringing the walkers through bog, woodland and farmland. We expect it is well used. The planting beds with pollinator friendly planting were admired including the one outside the church gates which was alive with insects buzzing. The old and new natural stone walls are a great habitat for insects. You also have great mature trees and natural hedgerows which give cover to animals and birds. While we agree that ivy is great for insect life it is detrimental to natural stone walls and should be removed. Ivy enters the lime mortar joints between the stones and the wall in time will fall. Remember that the wall itself is a great habitat for insects. You arranged a wildlife walk with an expert and we hope that you learnt something new about your area. A fresh pair of eyes often sees something that we don't see. We look forward to seeing the whitethorn which you have planted on the Oola road mature. This grows quite quickly so you (and the insects) will reap the benefits in a few years.

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

We were pleased to see photos of the polytunnel with the great display of vegetables and flowers. This is a great facility of which the students can avail and we see that you too use it to grow your own plants. The green flags were proudly on display on the gable wall of the Christian Brothers Primary School – we see a mural is being painted so we look forward to seeing the results. A second hand book scheme for the schools is essential as some of these books are extremely expensive. We note that all of your schools are involved in this activity. Having a Men's Shed to make items for you is great. Swifts are in decline so maybe ask them to make swift nesting boxes which you can install. Contact BirdWatch Ireland for assistance / advise.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was virtually litter free so your litter pick-up team are doing their job. Please applaud them. We see that you are also involved in weed control. This is a crucial part of Tidiness and Litter Control. While more time consuming, hoeing weeds and using a spade to create neat edges to grass areas and manual removal of weed growth is preferable than using herbicides. There were some posters on poles – remove these as soon as you see them as they are litter. The gate into the Community Centre need to be painted and the broken wall re-built. The bring banks in the bus park were neat and tidy and had been recently emptied. The entrance to the St Fintans Cemetery had six signs including the name sign (which we admired). These detract from this beautiful entrance and should be removed. If they are needed (and we question if they all are), locate them inside the graveyard walls. The concrete yard/ paving at the Grotto is quite cracked, so this will be a job for you quite soon.

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

The residences on the main street were very well presented – some had been freshly painted in beautiful muted tones which suited the architectural style of the building. We admired Glasha Talann where many of the residents had colourful displays of flowers in baskets and window boxes. Residences in Connagh Court had neatly mown grass, edges neatly trimmed and here too many had displays of colourful flowers in baskets and window boxes. The open area lacks trees and shrubs so perhaps this is something that could be rectified. Perhaps also include a few picnic benches so that neighbours can meet and chat. Hillview Grove has a mix of single and two storey houses and the communal open areas were well presented. We admired the sculpture at The Fort estate ... we asked but nobody knew what it represented or who had made it. On the outskirts of the village there are some very fine farmhouses with neat yards and outbuildings.

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

Neatly trimmed margins and hedgerows were seen on the main access roads into the village. The beautiful red and gold village name sign greeted us and with the great display of pollinator friendly flowers at the base, grown in the simple yet beautifully made timber planting bed, this presentation is very appealing. Please commend the sponsor for the sign. Road markings including the pedestrian crossing are quite worn and need repainting. The green margin with its row of trees across from the new stone wall on the R507 (Oola road) was well maintained. We were delighted to see that footpaths extended from the village out to the residential estate to the north – Hillview Grove-making it safe for residents to access the village on foot. The planting bed at the junction of the R503 and L5036 was in a sad state – stones missing, and considerable weed growth. We see this is a project for you in 2019 so we assume this has yet to be undertaken this year.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to visit your village and enjoyed meandering around. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2019 competition.