

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Collinstown - Baile na gCailleach	Ref: 106
County: Westmeath	Mark: 304
Category: B	Date(s): 13/07/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	41	41
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	42
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31	33
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	56	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	36	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	39	41
TOTAL MARK	470	295	304

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Collinstown – Baile na gCailleach páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for this year's application with its many illustrations and map; the latter was not really fit for adjudication purpose as it did not show projects as N (new) M (maintenance) or F (future) as required. A summary of your Tidy Towns Plan should also be submitted with future applications. A committee of nine members with a volunteer base of nineteen places Collinstown on a good footing in the competition. Well done on the excellent working relationship with the school and the GAA; it is good to note that the committee is working to strengthen links with business interests. The use of social media for Tidy Towns news and events alongside traditional forms of communication will enable the message to reach a wider audience and perhaps attract new helpers. The lengthy list of achievements for this year is commendable as is your participation in the competition for the past twenty years.

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

Streetscape within Collinstown has high visual amenity and it good to note its Age Friendly status also. Saint Mary's Church and grounds look particularly attractive and the school looked as though it had been recently painted. The presentation of the Daybreak shop and the Lough Lene Lounge Bar complement their setting in the streetscape and the mural beside the Daybreak shop is a nice touch however, the empty frame on the Lough Lene premises should be removed. The 'Little Free Library' is a charming feature together with the recently created scenic viewing point within the village centre for Lough Lene and the old refurbished telephone kiosk

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The Peace Garden within the grounds of Saint Mary's Church is a fine amenity with a 'meditative' ambience; the Herb Garden at the school is noteworthy too. Further on in time a fruit and nut orchard and / or a Sensory Garden might be considered. Hopefully the recently planted three oak saplings at the school will flourish and thrive to outlive us all! If there is a landscaping element to the new plan do let us have the details with next year's application. The basic guidelines are to plant native when feasible, to plant for year-round interest and colour and to be mindful of the needs of pollinators. The change in your grass cutting regime to facilitate pollination is well informed. All green areas noted during adjudication had a neatly presented appearance. Container flower displays look well.

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

Well done on the decision not to use chemical weed killer and on the new grass cutting timescale (noted above) for pollinators. The managed Wildlife Area is progressing nicely and the new log stacks are an interesting and

educational feature for children, especially when they are fearful of creepy crawlies! The following website can be consulted for guidance on how to monitor and measure visits by pollinators. <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/> . The Boyo Diversity project is a wonderful combination of education, imagination and fun. Keep us updated on visitation rates to the bird boxes, perhaps a bird survey can be considered, BirdWatch Ireland can give guidance in this respect. At the time of adjudication, the playground was still a work in progress; the community walkway around the GAA pitch is a fine recreational amenity feature for adults.

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

The new housing development of Zero Energy rated houses will indeed make a contribution to Ireland meeting its obligations in this respect; do keep us updated as this type of feedback is of interest to all. Congratulations on acquiring the site for a composting facility, we anticipate a difference here too in future years. The 'One Small Change' campaign will get people to review their shopping and consumer habits in a number of areas which will eventually make a big difference. Your commitment to Refill Ireland and the Collinstown Reusable Cups is exemplary

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control in Collinstown was excellent during adjudication and weed control was good too. The 2minutes streetclean campaign is an excellent initiative and appears to be successful; your Facebook page is being put to very good use indeed in increasing litter awareness. Monthly clean-up days are notable also. Give us a little more information on the source, type and frequency of the litter picked, a litter survey will furnish you with this type of information and help reduce the need for regular litter picks. No doubt collected litter is segregated for recycling? Two undeveloped sites are problematic in this category, hopefully these will see development in the not too distant future.

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

Some badly weather-stained plain cement walls to residential properties are a feature of the entrance to Collinstown from the Delvin approach road; this can create a poor first impression of a centre. Both the Beech Park estate and the Gleann Aileann estate are being managed for a high standard of presentation. Householders can contribute to the suggested bird survey by noting bird species that visit their gardens. A contribution can also be made to sustainability by changing to LED lighting and recording the difference in energy usage; the creation of a community herb patch / vegetable patch on estate green areas might also be considered.

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

All approach roads to Collinstown looked well and signalled an attractive village ahead; nameplates, grass margins, landscaping and footpaths all worked together to create a very favourable impression of the village. the Delvin approach was especially appreciated for the scenic views of surrounding countryside it allowed. Congratulations on the proposed footpath to link the GAA sports grounds with the village thereby creating a 3km circular walk. The road to the cemetery with its footpath is favourably noted too.

Concluding Remarks:

Collinstown is a lovely village with a lot of good landscaping work, beautifully presented buildings and good proximity to Lough Lene which can be viewed and enjoyed from the centre of the village