

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh**

Ref: **1097**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **265**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **08/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	37
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	25
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	13	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	257	265

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Mullagh is welcomed to the 2015 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application, map and supporting documentation. There appears to be no plan for the village, no plan was enclosed and last year's report does not mention one either. Maybe you have one in place, if so send a copy with next year's application. Your plan gives clear direction on how your village intends to progress in the future. You have a large committee that engages well with the relevant agencies and local school. You mention through your application that your town has seen major changes over the last number of years. These changes can make it more difficult for committees to progress but you are dealing with the changes in a positive manner. The work you are achieving through your participation in the Tidy Towns competition instils a sense of pride in the community and develops and enhances the town making it a better place for the residents and visitors alike.

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

Mullagh is fortunate in the well-presented buildings that are part of the streetscape of the town. The people's park adds its own charm in the superb amenity it provides. The murals on the wall across tell their own story as does the plaque depicting the fairs that were part of the town's heritage in past years. The directional signage at the people's park is superb. Tyrell's lounge Bar and Happy day's crèche and adjacent house, all bring magnificent colour in the colourful displays of window boxes to the streetscape. Kilian's Lodge was also admired on its presentation and colourful displays. St Kilian's National School with its array of green flags are to be congratulated, is well presented. The Church, graveyard and playground complimented this road with their presentation. The Heritage centre and houses adjacent were also admired. The adjudicator then travelled the new footpath leading to the magnificent amenity area at the lake and enjoyed the whole experience.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaping at Roshill Road in the colourful containers was admired so too were the yellow planted containers at co-op corner. This drew the adjudicator attention to the planters and not the building, bringing life to this corner. The people's park has splendid planting in the trees and shrubs and the well maintained green areas. The seating area at the front also provides superb landscaping. The window boxes and hanging baskets on lampstands complimented the landscaping. Sustainable landscaping providing year round colour is recommended for its benefits to wildlife and it is also more cost effective. Planting of whitethorn hedging is one example of sustainable landscaping.

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

The town has many areas of natural habitats for wildlife at Mullagh Lake, the hedges, trees and walls around its boundary. The people's park is one such area of habitat and the adjudicator was pleased on the retention of a border of grass for wildlife. Now that you have the walk to Mullagh Lake complete, you have the opportunity to build on it. The school and community with the help of a local wildlife expert could take this development a stage further. This could be holding events such as a wildlife walk and conducting wildlife surveys. Ensure all results are documented and findings may be used to enhance your existing information boards. The information board at the lake was read with interest and more such boards would be welcomed.

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

Last year's adjudicator suggested that more events to create awareness of waste management be organised. There is no indication in your application that this has happened. The School has four flags which they are to be congratulated on. Their achievements can now be of assistance to the wider community in more efficient use of resources such as transport and savings on energy and water. The use of rainwater in watering flowers can save on this resource. Trying to encourage the community to reduce the amount of waste produced by organising events in this area would help. Events like stop food waste which the local authority run as suggested by last year's adjudicator would be a start. The tidy towns also have many suggestions to offer in this area on <http://www.tidytowns.ie>. The Green Home programme website offers many helpful hints too (<http://www.greenhome.ie>). Try to select realistic projects for next year and work on these.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The committee have a good plan in place, with major clean ups and regular litter picks involving the wider community. Litter is an on-going task that they community have to address. It is all about community involvement and changing the mind-set of the general public to use the litter bins or take their rubbish home. Some groups have "adopt a road" scheme which gives individuals responsibility for their own areas. Cut grass left on verges looks untidy. It is better to use a mulcher where possible and cut the grass regularly. There was some weed growth at kerbs noticed. In the people's park a door opposite the tennis court needs attention.

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

Well done on your work on unfinished estates. Unfortunately it's a problem most groups have but it is improving. When committees like you constantly seek assistance and support from the local authority and other organisation, this help address and improve the overall appearance of the area. The residences along the approach roads and throughout the town were well presented with colourful window boxes or gardens bringing colour to the streetscape. There are well maintained green areas and entrances to many of the estates with well-presented houses. The playground was admired for its well-presented appearance and high standard equipment providing an excellent amenity for the children of the town.

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

The Rosehill road brought a welcome as one entered the town with the colourful landscaping at the corner. Encroaching foliage however needs to be cut back at the entrance to the town on this road. The road to the lake with the new footpath, paling, matures trees and hedging was admired. The village pump painted green was spotted on Whitegate road. The Virginia road had some nice planting. Every road leading to the town and within the town brought its own charm to the town giving a welcome to the visitor entering. Traffic flowed freely. All gates on approach should be painted in a uniform colour where possible.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on your work for this year's competition and on the superb project of the walkway to the lake. Mullagh is a town with great potential to progress in the competition and you are wished continued success in the future.