

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappawhite** Ref: **635**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **307**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/08/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	48	49
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	41	42
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	37
TOTAL MARK	450	300	307

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Cappawhite (Ceapach na Bhfooiteach) chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for your entry form and map ... a little small but we managed to locate the various projects. Next year provide a full A4 map with your application. Your committee of six has an additional five volunteers whom you call upon when you need help to undertake various jobs. You also have links with other groups in Cappawhite which is excellent. We see you use Facebook, texting, parish newsletter, and face to face interaction to bring notice of your activities and projects to the whole community. We are pleased to welcome you and we note that the competition provides a focus for the community and as a result of your dedication and hard work, the community now have an appreciation of where they live.

A little advice on filling up the form and producing the map(s). In the application form, please number the projects as, New N1, N2, N3.... Maintained M1, M2, M3 and Future Projects FP1, FP2, FP3 and then put these numbers on the map(s) so that the adjudicators can locate the projects and see your hard work.

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

Your village has very many beautiful vernacular single and two-storey structures. These, together with road layout and the wide Village Square, give your village its unique character. In the surrounding countryside there are well kept farmhouses many with neat yards surrounded by outbuildings. The prominent buildings in the town are the disused RC church with its cut stone bell-cote, the new RC Church of our Lady of Fatima, the old Parochial Hall, the old Céard Scoil now the Community Centre, and the National School. We admired the shopfronts of T. Ryan, W. Hayes, Pharmacy and the building adjacent with the name removed, etc. While most of these are no longer in use as shops, they are important because of the social and artistic value to the town. We admired that some of the existing shops have carried on this discrete shopfront and signage tradition e.g. Armshaw's and Treacy's. We see your frustration regarding the deterioration of the old RC church and we wish you well in your efforts to receive help/funding. We loved the Grotto with its open-air mass altar and we were delighted to see that you were not tempted to add pots with flowers to the area. It is beautiful because of its simplicity and the planting in the adjacent beds is sufficient. You have some fine flat iron and wrought iron gates in the village and surrounding area which add to the character of the village. We loved the beautifully executed mural on the wall of the National School – Mól an Oige. The flag poles in the Village Green add to the area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The planting beds at the graveyard are full of heathers and deciduous planting and give colour all year round which we admired. Very often Tidy Town's groups concentrate on summer bedding only and we were happy to see that

there is year-round colour in these beautifully maintained beds. We mentioned the Grotto above under Streetscape, and here under Landscaping we recommend that the shrubs in front of the statue of St Bernadette are pruned as they are beginning to obscure the lower area of the Grotto including St. Bernadette. Perhaps remove the shrubs in this area and put in ground cover? There are quite a number of beautiful planting beds and loose planters around the village and on the approach roads. These are installed and managed by you. Some of these are in strategic locations which makes them very dramatic. One planting bed in particular which we admired was that in front of Fr. O'Callaghan Park. The colours were spectacular and we loved the variety of grasses, shrubs and flowers, many of which were pollinator friendly. The painted bicycles we noted around the village were also admired, with flowers tumbling down from the baskets.

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

We congratulate the school on winning their sixth Green Flag that is some achievement. Please commend the teachers involved and, needless to say, the children. You mentioned that bird boxes are installed. Mark their location on a map next year. Has there been any visitors? Let us know in next year's application. We admired that you left the areas near the ditches along the grass margins of the approach roads uncut to provide habitats for wildlife. We also admired the large sections of decaying tree trunks which will be a great habitat for a variety of beetles, earthworms and possibly fungi. At the moment the logs are quite sculptural! We see that you have listed projects which were commented on by last year's adjudicators – Woods in Greenfield and The Red Hill. Did you do undertake any new projects in this category this year or have you any planned for the future? (This is why we're asking committees to mark projects as New, Maintained or Future Projects – to help adjudicators assess the work undertaken and mark them accordingly).

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

We see that you are in discussions with Airtricity and have applied for funding with the intention of undertaking conservation work to the old church. This work is commendable. We note that you no longer have clothing recycling facilities and that your community bring unwanted clothes and other items to charity shops. The bring bank area was clean and bins had been recently emptied ready to receive the next batch of discarded glass. We were interested to read your proposal to use LED lighting in the village activated by sensors. Have you discussed this with the Local Authority, Garda, or ESB? Let us know next year. We commend you on organising the annual collection of scrap metal. How is that carried out? Is there a truck or container located in the village for a few days? Tell us how this works in next year's application. We noted that people were leaving franked stamps in a box in the church porch. What happens to these?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The village was virtually litter free and weed growth was only noted in a few areas. We commend you, the resident associations and other volunteers who undertake litter pick up and weed removal. Do you volunteers carry a hoe with them to help remove weed growth? Tell us next year. The large sign 'Wildlife Area Cappawhite Tidy Towns' is unpleasant and unnecessary remove it. If you need a sign (and we don't think you do) then please provide a discrete one. Signs such as these detract from the natural beauty of an area and so we caution you to think about the impact of such signs. We noted old signs on lampposts. These should be removed as soon as they appear to discourage community groups etc from putting up flyers, posters etc. We have seen a 2.4m x 2.4m board painted black on the main entrance roads to other villages and towns. All community posters are restricted to these boards and then all posters which are attached to posts, fences etc around the town are removed as soon as they are noticed. It seems to work for these other communities so maybe worth a try?

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

You have some very well-maintained residences in the centre of the village along the streets. It is very clear to the visitor that the residents are proud of their town and they also take great pride in their properties. The houses along the streets were beautifully presented and many had been freshly painted. Window boxes, planters, and hanging baskets with a profusion of colourful flowers adorned many of these houses adding to their beauty. Houses along the approach roads were neat and tidy and many gardens were full of flowers. We noted the raised planting bed at the entrance to one house which had flowers and a fairy door painted on the wall what a bit of fun. The planting and flowers were also admired. We mentioned the raised planting bed of Fr. O'Callaghan Park earlier but other estates also had neatly trimmed grass on the communal spaces and colourfully / well-maintained planting beds. Callaghan Park, Cappawhite Court, The Crescent and The Crescent Court were noted.

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

The roads leading to the village had neatly cut grass margins, and hedgerows had been trimmed giving good visibility to the motorist. We loved the low hedge planted around the concrete barrier at the edge of the road on the R505 from the west. What a great way to disguise this ugly but necessary barrier! We noted the solar speed sign and congratulate Tipperary Co Co on the installation. Village name signs had beautiful colourful planting in stone-surround planting beds which drew the motorist eye. We see that the footpath extends almost as far as the graveyard; are there any plans to bring it the whole way? This is something you might raise with you Area Engineer.

We admire footpaths extending outside the village limits, as very often, community facilities GAA grounds etc are located just outside of the village/town and a footpath provides safety for the pedestrian. Road marking were worn and need repainting. Some village signs had paint peeling from the poles.

Concluding Remarks:

We were delighted to visit your village, our first visit, and thoroughly enjoyed our stay as we meandered around. We read with interest of the Beara – Breifne and Multeen Ways ... we didn't know of this walk. Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2018 competition.