

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: Cappawhite - Ceapach na bhfaoiseach	Ref: 635
County: Tipperary(South)	Mark: 319
Category: B	Date(s): 24/07/2019

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	49	51
Streetscape & Public Places	60	41	43
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	25	27
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	14	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	39	40
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	39
TOTAL MARK	470	307	319

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Cappawhite - An Cheapach - páirt a ghlacadh í gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

Thank you for your submission, map and map key. You obviously heeded the advice of last year's adjudicator! Go one step further in 2020 and make the number and letters key just a little bit clearer on the map please!

Your involvement in Tidy Towns goes back to the 1970s - and it shows. You have 10 involved in your Committee and with a further 8 volunteers and you have recruited new people in 2019. Well done.

You are linked to all of the major businesses, schools and residents groups and also Tipperary County Council and this provides you with a range of supports in your work.

Most of your work occurs between the 1st April and the middle of September and you have an average of seven meetings a year. You are supported in your work by the Community Council as well as the local residents groups and business owners and it is good to see that you have specific Committees in the village to maintain your cemetery and Rockery.

You have managed to raise considerable funds through your Coffee Weekend and from Cappawhite Wind Farms who provided substantial funds and you have also benefited from funding from the Council.

You use the usual means of communication and as you are in a small village you use the best one of all – “word of mouth”!

Very importantly, you have contact with the National School; working with your committee is for the pupils and indeed teachers an education in itself. The School has a number of Green Flags and so both pupils and teachers are environmentally aware.

You say that; “The competition provides a focus for local people to take an interest and pride in their surroundings and raises awareness of the importance of playing an active role in maintaining our environment”. Well said.

Finally, well done on preparing a Three Year Plan and you have done this using the Tidy Towns Categories which is a good way to approach it.

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

Four roads radiate off the Square and with Main Street being the longest. It was good to see that all of the streets have attractive street signage in both Irish and English. The Square is triangular in shape! And is fronted by a good seating area in front of Armshaw's public house, the Church of Our Lady of Fatima, houses - including a fine and unusual shaped three storey building. It is an attractive village square. Most buildings in the Square are well maintained and there are great flower displays.

Most of the houses in Main Street would be small original houses interspersed with larger buildings including the Parochial Hall built in 1931. Most of the buildings are in good condition but there are also many empty ones, a tale

of so many towns and villages today.

It is good that you have begun to catalogue the important buildings in the village and have contact with the Heritage Council and have consulted the Buildings of Ireland website. Doing this provides you with a base from which you can prepare well-grounded submissions for funding to repair, enhance or make new uses of the older buildings. It is good that you have taken an interest in your stone walls and have a Local Employment Scheme in operation repairing walls at present opposite the Community Resource Centre. Significantly, it is also great that a private owner is aware of the significance of old buildings and is working on the repair of a Gate Lodge and walls in High Park House. The work that your Committee initiated eventually catches on with others – leading by example is the best way!

You enter Church Street through a narrow space between two buildings. The road rises steeply up to the National School and beyond to Red Hill. Building work was taking place in the school and we were unable to enter the grounds. We see that this is the third iteration of improvements to the school, first constructed in 1826. We saw the old Church and which you have been attempting to source funding for; we hope that you are successful in that as it is part of your history and we hope that it will have a new lease of life with another use eventually.

Your work in painting empty buildings and trying to get owners to maintain them is exemplary. The key, as always, is to find new uses for these.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The trees in Main Street have old tree guards around them and there is no need to keep these in place now as they will eventually damage the tree trunk. On Cashel Road we discovered a walking route inside the wall and later discovered that it is part of the O'Sullivan- Beara Walking route. What wonderful natural assets you have and this route leads to Red Hill also we were told.

We saw an area of wildflowers inside the wall of the graveyard on the Limerick Road. They looked great and were a good contrast to the bareness of the cemetery itself. Space should be made available in the cemetery for tree planting – that is one of the reasons why old cemeteries can be so atmospheric when relatives or friends visit. The outside of the cemetery has a well planted display of heathers and other plants and they looked very good on the day of our inspection.

You have active recreation Green Areas also adjacent to the Resource Centre, football and hurling pitches and a new playground for younger children also.

Your standard of landscaping throughout your village is extremely good and some points in relation to this are included in other categories.

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

We viewed the Wildflower area past the graveyard and despite your self-criticisms we think it is working well! However, you should really engage with an expert in this area to advise you and before you make interventions that might not be warranted at all! We do think the grass paths are a good idea. We noticed the trees in the Wildlife Area and as we mentioned in another context these trees also show how planning for these some 20 or more years ago eventually does make an impact. They look great. Just past your wildlife area and across the road there is a recently excavated bank and with a great display of naturally occurring wild flowers. Perhaps it might be an idea to talk to the owner of this property to discuss retaining it; indeed, it might be better to get the same expert that we suggested for the Wildflower Area to also look at this bank to provide an opinion before you discuss it with the owner.

Unfortunately, we did not get to see the school biodiversity area because of the construction work underway there. But it is great that the children and teachers are involved in Natural Education and the number of Green Flag Awards attests to this.

Your access to real nature and biodiversity on your doorstep is remarkable and unlike many areas in Ireland where local populations have no idea of what biodiversity is near them, your village is obviously fully aware and educating the local population also. It is simply wonderful to have The Four Acres Woods and Red Hill literally on your doorstep as well as the Wildlife Area on the Limerick Street.

We noted a very large stand of Giant Hogweed in an area close to and at the rear of the Tidy Towns HQ. Get expert advice on these plants as the sap can cause skin damage we are told. We also noticed them in the 4 Acre Wood but there were signs there alerting us to the problem and the danger.

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

The most important thing is that your community is aware of Sustainability – this is always the first step. You have Recycle Banks to collect bottles and paper and unwanted clothes are diverted to the SVP. Your Community Resource Centre is monitoring energy use. You have established a yearly scrap metal collection.

It is always a good idea with sustainability and recycling to have numbers; when you have numbers, you can see if you are making progress. For example;

- When measures are taken to reduce energy use in the Resource Centre how has this impacted on saving money and energy?
- What weight of glass, paper or plastic is collected?
- How much rainwater is harvested?
- How many houses or businesses have installed rainwater harvesters?

Indeed, one of your funding targets – if successful - might be to purchase rainwater harvesters for community areas at least.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is always a thankless job to regularly pick litter and clean kerbs. And with the volume of traffic now it is also quite difficult if not also dangerous. Your town is generally clean and tidy and well done to you on achieving that. The Bring Bank on the Tipperary Road is situated in a good area in that it is easily accessible. However, there was a lot of rubbish on the day of inspection and this has not been helped in our view by the use of the area by someone to store gravel and tarmacadam and also the area is quite potholed and so presents a somewhat derelict look unfortunately. The Raparee sign in the Square is quite dirty and needs to be cleaned.

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

We admired An Corrán, The Crescent and good to see the use of Irish. It is a well presented estate and someone has come up with the idea of planting Japanese Maples in the green areas – these should make a great and colourful sight in a number of years. Crescent Court is tidy and many houses have good flower displays. The Crescent, a new estate and where the residents have planted trees on the open space area as well as shrubs and flowers on each corner. And Fr Callanan Park is well maintained.

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

The entrance from the Tipperary Road is very neat and with a good Name Sign and with a well planted stone surrounded bed using Cotoneaster – a nice change – and on the right hand side a short section of flowers. Arriving from the Cashel direction and when you cross the bridge you are greeted with a beautiful tree lined road with good margins, walls and hedges – and what a mix of herbaceous planting on a grand scale on either side! Probably 150 metres in length. The only word for this is magnificent! And yes, we did see Dahlias – who would have thought they would work in this situation and they do! On the right hand side there is a line of Ash trees which must have been planted some 20 or more years ago. A good example of thinking of the future and being patient! We loved the old steel farm gates painted blue and the gates that someone with artistic sensibility fabricated using modern materials and old metal wheels.

Concluding Remarks:

We enjoyed very much our visit to Cappawhite and it is great to see the work and effort involving the Tidy Towns Committee. You have a town fabric with a unique layout. Well done on all of your work to date, keep working on your Three Year Plan and we look forward to your continuing participation in the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2020