

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boston** Ref: **2199**
County: **Clare** Mark: **201**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	24
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	25
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	20
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	15
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	20
TOTAL MARK	450	201

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

We are delighted to welcome Boston to their first ever entry into the national Tidy Towns Competition. The first year of any new body can be hard but your adjudicator has no doubt that you will quickly get support from your community.

You are liaising with the local school and Boston Child Care Group. We would like to wish your school success in achieving their first 'Green Flag' and they should be in a position to help in different categories of the competition.

Participation is an incremental process and you will gain marks rapidly in the competition. Most Clare communities have received great support from Clare County Council, in particular the Environmental Awareness, Biodiversity and Heritage Officers. They organise relevant seminars and in these first few years it would be great if committee members could set aside the time to attend at least one such seminar each year.

It is recommended that you use these first few years to talk to the community and draft a simple action plan for Boston relating to each category of the competition. Copies of such long-term plans should be submitted with future applications.

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

The Church in Boston is a lovely presented building with its blue & cream walls. The school and crèche also looked very well, especially with the lovely window boxes. Goodness the views from here are spectacular across the Burren. There were metal posts at the top of the school wall, a remnant from an earlier fence. Perhaps this could be removed in the future?

The castle was spectacular. How rare it is to have the entire gable end of this building still intact so you can see the details around windows etc. Another heritage feature was nicely presented in Boston – the GR post box showing it was installed during the reign of King George V.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The refurbished village pump looked bright and well, and the deceptive wooden handle was fashioned so well it took your adjudicator by surprise! The planters and pockets of planting looked well. It is important not to over extend yourselves and if thinking of planting under name signs on approach roads, that such planting should be in keeping with the very rural setting of Boston. The Geopark could also advise you on this. Some of the verges had fuchsia and honeysuckle growing that would provide pollen for our endangered pollinators and looked lovely.

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

Situated in the middle of the Burren you have the luxury that few other TidyTowns groups have – you have great habitats and wildlife and natural amenities on your doorstep. A lot of information will already be available from the GeoPark for you to share with visitors and locals alike.

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

Best of luck to the school with their endeavours to gain a green flag. More advice on this category of the competition can be gained from the TidyTowns Unit or their website www.tidytowns.ie.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was some dog waste at the information sign and a small amount of silage wrap but otherwise very little litter in Boston. The sign at the crossroads below Boston Castle provides good information on the local heritage around the parish. But the frame needed to be replaced as it is rotten and it was difficult to read the information on the parish.

The Church car park has piles of small stones stored here, albeit it behind the boundary wall, it is recommended that this is not a regular practice. Your adjudicator was unsure if weed killer had been applied here in places and this is not recommended. The spreading of the stones to suppress weed growth and periodic weed pulling during litter picks is to be recommended instead.

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

Residence are kept to a very high standard, as are outhouses that all looked very well and contributed to the high standard of presentation in Boston.

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

Both name signs looked clean and bright. It was good to see traditional wrought iron gates installed as entrance gates into fields.

Concluding Remarks:

We love the Green School's motto "Boston will help clean up the litter – and after the place will glitter". On adjudication day as Boston looked very well and is located in a most amazing area. The views from the school were lovely! Thank you for your hard work and best of luck in the future in the competition.