

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinasloe** Ref: **190**
County: **Galway** Mark: **296**
Category: **E** Date(s): **10/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	42	42
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	44	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	19	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	47	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	290	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinasloe is very welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your completed entry form. Do try to provide a better map next year and a Tidy Towns Plan covering a time span of at least three years, these are basic requirements for participation in the Competition. It is good to note that a Facebook page is being set up for Ballinasloe Tidy Towns as a communication method to supplement more traditional ones. The committee has the support of a broad group of supporters and links with local schools are well established.

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

Ballinasloe has a handsome stock of three storey buildings however the visual amenity of the streetscape is diminished by a number of upper storeys in need of refurbishment together with gable walls. (Main Street and Saint Michaels Square). Overhead service cables and unattractive service poles are an unsightly feature also. Some litter bins need refurbishment also. It is a pleasure to note many well presented shopfronts and so very few plastic neon fascia signs. Discourage the use of roller security shutters out of business hours, these can be placed inside Windows (Karibas) also discourage the use of window stickers and posters as these can spoil an otherwise attractive shopfront presentation. We look forward to the proposed Town Enhancement Project due to start before the end of this year. Public buildings in general are well presented and Saint Johns Church was admired together with the Catholic church, Library and Portiuncula Hospital and grounds.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Saint Michael's Square is graced with sculpture, maturing trees and colourful flower displays and looks well. The 1916 Remembrance Park has an aura of elegant simplicity. Work accomplished at the flower bed in the car park at the Marina is admirable as is the Sensory Garden and planted areas in general. Green areas are well maintained also. The roadside boundary treatment to the sports grounds is good with its nicely maintained grass area maturing trees shrubberies and flower displays. Log onto universaldesign.ie for guidelines and inspiration on designing spaces and buildings with universal access. Be aware that amenity areas can be temporary utilizing little used spaces or sites awaiting development. Don't forget to include a landscape plan in your multi annual plan and to plant for visual interest in all seasons.

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

The park viewed from Dunloe Hill is an attractive element of the town as is the park located across from the harbour. Ballinasloe Marina looked exceptionally well and the increased wild fowl population is welcome. It is good to note that wild grasses and flowers are allowed to flourish in appropriate places to attract pollinators. Don't forget

to choose native species when choosing plants to enhance biodiversity. The proposed 'Wetland' development is an exciting venture. Bog land clean up operations is laudable and will pave the way for future wild life amenity development.

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

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Sustainable waste and resource management 19

Green flags were not noted at any school, is this an oversight? We note a strong working relationship with schools and mention in the entry form of 'bug hotels' as part of the exercise for 'green flag' at Creagh National School. A number of waste and resource management projects have been undertaken in the past year in Ballinasloe, where possible results should be measured to calculate energy savings and prevention of waste and used for feedback to the community to increase motivation.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is very good in Ballinasloe; some plastic bottles and cans were noted at a few locations but this was not serious. Weed control is good also but curbs along the car park to the rear of the Bank of Ireland premises featured weed growth. Regular litter picks are noted in addition to major clean ups and participation in the National Spring Clean. Representations to the owners of the old Presbyterian Church are noted and a successful outcome is anticipated.

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

Roadside boundary walls to many properties were in need of improvement particularly on entrances from approach roads. A number of townhouses also are in need of refurbishment to their roadside facade. Many gardens were admired for their flower displays and window boxes on townhouses attracted the eye also. The Gardens Competition is an excellent initiative and the funding of projects with grant money for residential areas is noteworthy also.

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

Approach roads to the town are beautifully managed in terms of grass verges, landscaping, road surface and footpaths. The Garbally roundabout was particularly admired. Many stretches of road needed to be relined. Car parking appears to be well catered for in the town.

Concluding Remarks:

Ballinasloe is in a difficult situation with a location between two administrative areas and representations having to be 'doubled' in many instances. However the town is attractive and the committee are managing the Tidy Towns initiative admirably; we look forward to a successful outcome of the proposed Town Enhancement Plan.