

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlanstown** Ref: **1143**
County: **Meath** Mark: **276**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	38
Streetscape & Public Places	50	38	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	39	40
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	21	21
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	18	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	52
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	450	269	276

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Droichead Chearbhallain chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. We are delighted to welcome Carlanstown to the 2018 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. We note that Tidy Towns comes under the auspices of Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development (CKCD) It was a pleasure to visit your lovely village to see at first hand all the positive changes that have taken place in the last few years. Thank you for a helpful map and clearly laid-out application form. Your structure and organised approach is most impressive as can be seen by all your achievements in recent years. Could we kindly request you to refrain from the heavier card paper next time as it was breaking loose from the binder as we read through the application. Be careful also that the numbering of your projects isn't deleted during binding. We couldn't find no. 5 on the map itself. The various photos give a flavour of your varied activities during the past year. Your organisation and structure ensure that every volunteer is delegated specific tasks. You receive strong support from local businesses, local groups and wider community. You are fortunate to have the assistance of a Tus scheme and an RSS worker to help maintain your Park. You have a close working relationship with Meath Co Co, Meath Partnership as well as your local representatives. Your Community Plan has assisted you in setting goals across all eight Tidy Towns categories and monitor progress annually. We congratulate you on your positive community engagement, which has led to more people getting involved year on year. You rely strongly on social media as well as traditional channels to convey your messages. Forging strong links with both your school and youth clubs is crucial in order to make strong progress in this competition. You are already doing this to good effect. Keep up the excellent work.

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

Part of your architectural heritage, Kiernan's pub looks resplendent since its paint job last summer. The water pump is an attractive feature. It's a pity steel shutters at Village Stores have to be down during daytime hours as they are somewhat unwelcoming. The Centra is very nicely presented. The old school building was admired.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You are making good strides in this category and are obviously getting some good advice. You are making smart use of planting schemes to create a streetscape as your raw material /space is challenging in the village centre. There are lovely pockets of planting including the nice mix of permanent planting across from Gerry's that provides year-round colour and interest. Your wise action to save the 2,000 daffodil bulbs during recent bridge realignment work, has meant you were able to plant them all again nearby in the autumn. The photos are stunning. Would consideration be given to incorporating some year-round planting along these fence lines as they are quite bare the rest of the year? (white thorn hedge for example?) Thank you for submitting photos of your magnificent cherry

blossoms in bloom. The one in the centre of the village green makes an attractive feature. Much community energy has been spent on the development of your walkway around the perimeter of the Community Park, including significant fund raising to cover the entire cost. We note phase 1 was completed Autumn '17. We noted the new seats and notice board. We are encouraged that you have a professional Landscape Architect on board to devise and implement a planting plan. We look forward to seeing further progress next time. Keep up the good work.

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

The Planting Plan for the Community Park is an ideal opportunity to think about bee and wildlife planting. This won't be suitable in all areas but sections or 'corridors' could be designated. Familiarising yourselves with the 'Community Actions' section of the National Pollinator Plan would enable you to pass on some practical tips to your keen householders. One action you are already implementing is leaving certain areas uncut so that native wildflowers will thrive and attract bees and other insects. It indeed looks wonderful in the photo. You could circulate a list of bee-friendly plants in your newsletter and Facebook page. As you are so organised in other categories, perhaps you could discuss with your Heritage Officer the possibility of getting funding to compile a Biodiversity Plan. This would give you a focus and some clear actions over the next few years. A Habitat Survey of the village could be incorporated, particularly of the new Community Park. Organising walks and talks are another good way of getting the community talking and engaged. These are available from the likes of Birdwatch Ireland, Batwatch Conservation Ireland etc. We like the idea your 'Biodiversity' road. You could run a week by week update of what's happening/growing on the road over a couple of months. Or run a nature walk there in conjunction with the school/youth club? We look forward to hearing of further progress next time.

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

We are very impressed with the 'New to You' Thrift shop model and again commend your vision to set this up and grow the project over the last few years. It is not surprise it is put forward as a model of 'best practice' when it comes to community waste prevention. The pop-up shop 'fundraiser' for the local school is another worthwhile initiative. It is wonderful to see your various community groups working together and sharing the profits. Sharing Facebook posts on waste prevention is simple yet most effective – thank you for the relevant examples. We congratulate the local school (please provide name) on recently being awarded their first Green Flag for 'Litter & Waste'. We know they are sending these messages home to their families also. Your planned new Community Centre is an ideal opportunity to ensure that all aspects of the design are to top spec in terms of energy efficiency, water conservation etc. Some other items were recommended by last year's adjudicator. No doubt the proper advice will be sought when the time comes and funding applied for as required (e.g. SEAI). Lighting in the Community Park is another item where energy efficiency comes to mind. Perhaps Carlanstown is already part of the Sustainable Energy Community Network? We know there was a seminar held on this recently in Co. Meath. We look forward to hearing of further updates next time.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

We congratulate you on your participation and performance in Meath Co Co's Anti-litter league 2018. Such initiatives are a good way of keeping the community focussed on keeping Carlanstown litter-free. Do you have a community-wide clean-up for National Spring Clean? Well done to the volunteer litter patrols and the Tus workers who check for litter daily. It was somewhat disappointing to find litter on the day of our visit so we would encourage you to keep strongly on message. There was a minor littering on the village green, despite the bin being a few feet away! There was a little litter by the wall opposite Gerry's pub with two bags left beside the bin. The litter bin beside the takeaway was being used by young people hanging around; however, it was full to overflowing.

Carlanstown is doing very well in terms of tackling tidiness issues. Could the timber pole at the entrance to Village Green Estate be removed? The flowerbed across the road from Centra was a little weedy.

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

The standard in this category is high. Engaging with and encouraging home owners in your estates and along approach roads ensures that the high standard is maintained. It appears that several of your Residents Associations are active and keen to co-operate. On the whole, residential areas were litter-free with attractive tree planting and other landscaping. It would be nice if every residential development had a bilingual name sign. We couldn't find any signs in some cases. O' Cearbhallain Crescent is nicely maintained with attractive planting. The timber planter opposite the entrance from the Main Rd is inappropriately placed here and should be removed or relocated to an area of hard landscaping, preferably near other similar planters. There is a distinct air of pride when one enters Village Green Estate with carefully considered planting and well maintained green areas noted. You might plan to treat the fence soon, and/or perhaps consider some hedge planting along the roadside fence line? The development across the way (couldn't see a name) isn't at the same standard. Trees at Boora Crescent are maturing nicely. The freshly painted homes and buildings along the Main St are a credit to their owners. Well done to all the proud residents of Carlanstown and keep up the good work.

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

Since the commencement of your Community Park, you have lobbied and sought funding for a footpath extension for safe access. We are delighted to note that you secured funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, with the path completed in April '18. Village boundaries are well-defined by your attractive 'Welcome' signs and flower beds. We note you have recently removed the stone-surround from your Approach Road flower beds for ease of maintenance. Grass verges are well maintained but not overly manicured – in keeping with your rural setting. The

realigned bridge and footpath is a welcome new addition since our last visit. Good road surfaces and markings were noted.

Concluding Remarks:

We are delighted to hear that your participation to date in Tidy Towns has already improved your local environment and brought people in the community together. You have a lovely village that you are rightly proud of it. You are taking the right approach across all categories. Well done CKCD Tidy and keep up the excellent work.