

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Swinford** Ref: **361**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **258**
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/06/2016**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2015 | Mark Awarded 2016 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 41 | 43 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 36 | 36 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 35 | 36 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 28 | 30 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 15 | 17 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 40 | 42 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 27 | 28 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 26 | 26 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 248 | 258 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a really interesting and enlightening entry. This was very nicely laid out and illustrated and gave a good insight into your working year. Thanks for the cover letter and congratulations on your Pride of Place victory- well done to all! Your entry in this category was very clear and showed the breadth of your involvement within your community and with the ethos of the competition. Your support from business as well as by Mayo County Council and others speaks well for your organisation and activity. A minor criticism: could you please work on your map? The two-map format wasn't handy. The key was overly elaborate and doesn't need a binomial system. Try and see if you could fit all of your area on a single hand-drawn A3 sheet with the project areas shown in a key on the same sheet. Thank you and again, well done.

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

A very clear and concise entry here Swinford. Thanks. You've been busy. Swinford Motors looks very well kept for such a large area. The bottle banks at the petrol station here are very neat. Market St is a lovely traditional area and has much potential. Buildings are of a consistent size and shopfront design. There are so many nice original shopfront features including window bars, plasterwork and large plate glass windows. This is somewhat diminished by the really poor signage at the Spar. Some more upkeep is also needed on some of the empty shops. Watch out for missing beer signs from pubs in prominent locations. Also watch out for overly large posters and window stickers. State of repair of benches will have to be among your checklists. First floor elevations can also be easily spoiled by large or inappropriate signs. Several businesses on Main Street need to improve their general upkeep of windows and at base of walls.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Again, your entry here could hardly be clearer. Native trees, bee highways and wildflowers show that you have one eye on the natives. A car-park area (no name) looked very poor and this site is an opportunity for a significant planting project. The larger car-parking area could be greatly improved with a mural - you could paint plant and flowers along this. Lovely but restrained work was seen at Davitt Place. Well done. The playground at Brabazon Wood was very neat and clean on adjudication day. Tree-planting is recommended at the Community Centre. There is a damaged sign frame at the football grounds.

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

Excellent entry here by Swinford and this is the kind of work we love to see. You are working with experts, doing

practical conservation work and including young people in your efforts. Additional points here are well-deserved. Japanese knotweed is a problem at Pound Lane. Brabazon Woods is really lovely. A great network of paths is found here and were in perfect condition. New bat-boxes were noted. The older bug hotel is poorly placed and could be a fire hazard. Do please note that a pile of rotting (damp) wood piled up is every bit as good as a 'bug hotel'. A walks sign is broken and another is missing here. Don't let Montbretia become the dominant plant in semi-natural or planted areas.

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

Once again, really good stuff here. You name-check lots of the important issues. You are self-reliant now for water, thanks to rainwater harvesting. The Food Cloud (the adjudicator only heard about this earlier this year) is an excellent initiative and is just what we are hoping to read about. You've greened your festivals and support your second hand shops. Very good.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Clear details of all of your anti-litter actions were laid out well. In the case of your anti dog litter work, the mutt-mitt project was very well-illustrated. Well done. You compete in the Mayo County Council anti-litter league, participate in national and European clean-ups and involve the schools in what you do. Well done. The recycling banks were passably presentable but the signage is dirty and obscured by overhanging cherry laurel. A wire-free Main Street was admired.

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

Lots of different actions were described here, including a most useful Swinford Street League sponsored by Tesco. You are encouraging estates to undertake actions for themselves, including forming groups. You have good plans in this category.

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

Wildflower gardening and mowing regimes for pollinators feature in your work this year and you reference the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Very good. You lobby both businesses and the local authority. New bike lanes will be one outcome of this vital task of the modern Tidy Towns group.

The N5 approach looks quite well although some of the grass-cutting appears to be uneven. The murals at Pound Lane look very good. Mellets & Duggans lead the way here with the standard of buildings that could be achieved.

Concluding Remarks:

While much remains to do, it's very clear that much has been done, and with a good plan behind it. It was very enjoyable to have a close look at Swinford, thank you.