

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Woodford** Ref: **1165**
County: **Galway** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39	41
Streetscape & Public Places	50	35	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	33	34
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
TOTAL MARK	450	269	282

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Woodford / An Ghráig chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais.

Thank you for providing the before and after pictures which really help your adjudicator to see the extent of your hard work carried out in Woodford over the past 12 months. There was a problem with the map provided though as it was a photograph of the map and once printed the writing was not legible. If possible next year could this be scanned to avoid this problem?

It was great to see your involvement in particular with the local Scouts group and so many different organisations. This includes staff National Parks and wildlife services, St Joseph's national school, Mercy College, the GAA, Woodford photography club, referred garden centre even the Shragh Tractor Run Group.

Special mention is made to the national school and the pupils who took part in the art competition forming part of the Pride In Woodford initiative.

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

Your adjudicator was amazed to see that nearly every home or business premises on the Main Street had been freshly painted. Some were painted in tones that complemented their own business such as the forestry service building. Congratulations to everybody in the community for really raising the standard here in Woodford. You also have volunteers with the lovely sense of humour - the well-positioned planter at the front of the bicycle mural worked really well. Brightly coloured entrances to bird nests caught the eye. Turf carts above our heads and bicycles in attics - not a wonder the fairies are returning to Woodford.

Shopfronts have been restored with the help of tradespeople in the community. Many premises have hanging baskets that looked really well such as Morans, J Walshes and Keary's. The old air pump stand here was well maintained also. And of course, your work at Canning's made for a lovely window display.

Opposite the turf cart, there is a beautiful old period building with original windows and glass. The glass is so old, you can even see some of the ripples that have formed in the panes. Where the electricity cable attached to this building a lot of the installation is coming apart and this is a concern.

Part of the success in this category is thanks to the fact that you contacted all owners of unoccupied and derelict properties for permission to enhance these areas.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The statue in the Marian Shrine was beautiful in its simplicity. And lovely planters add impact here. It is getting quite overshadowed by fast-growing evergreens - could they be cut back to allow the views across the river whilst at the grotto also to form a spectacular backdrop?

The church commands a great view over the town. Landscaping here was of high quality - a mixture of shrubs and perennials and at the entrance gates lovely black and gold planters were well-positioned. You have repainted planters in bright attractive colours that help give a lift with they are repositioned such as at the front of the heritage centre. In most places where your planters are positioned, they really make an impact.

Your Riverside amenity area is stunning -no doubt this would be very busy in the summer. Your adjudicator questions the position of the raised planter here and also the quite ornate fountain. Planters on the grassed area are not recommended in such cases as you should be planting shrubs and perennials straight into the ground. It was felt that the formal style of the fountain perhaps did not sit well with this more natural setting.

The new self-watering flower baskets should make your task a lot easier.

Most of the flowers and shrubs chosen in your landscaping schemes are also bee- friendly. Traditional seasonal bedding plants such as begonias and geraniums do not offer much in terms of pollen and nectar for pollinators. The website www.pollinators.ie provides wonderful free guidance for communities, gardeners, schools and even farmers who may be interested in doing their bit. Incidentally, daffodils are not always the best for pollinators so ideas for spring flowers can also be obtained from this website.

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

Your entry form talks of your immense efforts and actions to support the work of the all-Ireland pollinator plan - this is to be highly commended. You have lovely pockets that been managed for wildlife at the bottom of Rockhill. Your adjudicator loved your treatment of the utility box and enjoyed reading the motto 'the buzz of the bee is a sign of a good garden'.

Bug hotels have been constructed and nest boxes have been erected. Some are obviously bright and colourful been more of an ornamental nature. Templates bird boxes are available from the website www.birdwatchireland.com. It also gives advice on where to direct bird boxes. You are also raising awareness of the important wildlife habitats in your area and plan to promote signage to the Derrycrag Wood. Perhaps you could organise a guided wildlife walk in this area?

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

This category of the competition is about using your resources carefully. It includes energy, transport, and water for example. So is great to read of your work to eliminate the use of disposable coffee cups and to incentivize customers who use WHEN purchasing coffee locally.

All the newly purchased public lights and low energy. Nest boxes and fairy homes are all made from recycled materials and you even become adept at mixing up all paints to get the exact colour you want.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done everyone for your help with the spring clean. It is hoped that in your long-term plan you have a policy to try and lobby for the undergrounding of electricity cables. There were a couple of very ugly junction boxes.

At the Garda station, you have a very rusty sewage vent pipe. Due to its height, it is suggested you contact the County Council for their support in having this painted.

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

On the Main Street and in estates, there is a very high level of presentation of homes. Those that overlook the GAA pitch have great views of the forest and the many mature trees and were tending to the hanging baskets during adjudication. Watch the use of herbicides at the base of trees to suppress weed growth - maybe mulch these areas instead? Woodview was very aptly named and this estate was very tidy.

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

There were a couple of older entrance gates to side alleys and fields that could be painted. There is good continuity of pavement to all of the estates right up to Rockhill and to Woodview. Around the Church and Heritage Centre and Garda station, the quality of road surfaces is very high.

Concluding Remarks:

Woodford is in a stunning setting and commands lovely views across the Slieve Aughty Mountains. On adjudication evening numerous volunteers were out watering and tending to your planters. Whilst this is just your third year in the national competition you are coming on in leaps and bounds. Well done.

