

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fethard** Ref: **1722**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **260**
Category: **D** Date(s): **04/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	38
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	26
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
TOTAL MARK	450	260

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Fethard is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2014. Thank you for your submission which includes a complete application form, a village map clearly showing the numbered locations of your projects and some impressive photographs of various initiatives, projects and landscape areas. Your committee of 8 is organized in relation to your monthly meetings and your fundraising endeavors. Well done on using Facebook and your school visits to promote your campaign.

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

Fethard retains a strong urban form and like many Irish towns the commercial centre has suffered decline in recent years and this situation has caused the closure of a number of shops in the town centre. Your efforts to enliven former shops on Main Street are excellent and the photographic display of the Tidy Towns' efforts and old Fethard looks great. Opposite, the hurley-making by designer John O'Brien is nicely displayed as is the adjoining craft and jewellery shop. McCarthy Bar/Hotel is an excellent example of building conservation both inside and outside. The interesting display in the pub window set an example of good display and the flower box and many basket adornments enlivened the whole street here. Opposite, Academy House has a fine array of red geranium-planted window boxes attached to each window ope and the building with its attractive colour scheme looks stunning. One street house opposite the church was in need of repainting. The GAA Park and Dalton's opposite have very nice presentations and the car park area looks very well. The Town & Country premises looks very well close by the entrance to the atmospheric and historic Holy Trinity.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Your town contains some very impressive soft and hard landscaped areas especially at the square. Paving and street furniture are of good quality with the tourists trail signage being excellent. The flower beds enclosed by a box hedgerow look great and are maintained to a high standard. Elsewhere, you maintain a good number of incidental open spaces that visually enhance the town environs. Well done on clearance at Grove Road and on the planting of your wildflower areas. At the GAA Park the raised stone, planted bed is a nice enhancement to a historic old wall and architectural feature. Opposite Katie's Cottage, a house containing an attractive Virginia creeper and a nearby rose bed were admired. At Ard Alainn, some young trees were in need of support and need to be re-staked.

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

We note that your biodiversity survey, being carried out by Kevin Collins, is underway and you are to be commended on this. Well done to the students on their practical production of the bird boxes. The town has a great

number of wildlife habitats with potential for subtle development in this category, none more so than the magnificent and historic valley area along the banks of the Clashawley River.

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

We note from last year's report that you set up a special committee in this regard and that you have regular contact with both local schools. Have your schools achieved Green Flag Status? Perhaps you could endeavor to engage with the schools to try and promote some further initiatives in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You have made good progress in this category and improvement works to derelict properties can be seen in various locations. The old mart site looks very untidy; perhaps some screening could be organized here. Well done on the eradication project underway on the Japanese Knotweed and on the elimination of graffiti. Perhaps the remaining letters at the old ballroom could be removed as they now contribute visually to a feeling of abandonment.

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

Fethard has a large amount of housing schemes and all were visited. Grass cutting and maintenance work was on-going at St. Patrick's Place and Fr. Tirry's Park on the day of adjudication. Generally the standard of presentation is very good and we note your committee has established contact with individual residents groups in this regard. Have you considered the possibility of an inter-estate competition that maybe could be run on an annual or bi-annual basis? This has been very successful as a communication channel in other towns. The renovation of Jimmy Ryan's house after the fire is a fine achievement.

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

Fethard has a number of finely presented approach roads none more so than the Cashel and the Killenaule entrance roads, both containing some wonderful stone walls, hedgerows and mature trees. This is a strength you can build on. Closer to town some presentations are a little uneven. Some flower tubs, signage and litter bins are in need of refreshing, especially on the Killenaule Road. The inner town paving and street furniture is excellent. Your committee is working well and has made some fine achievements in recent years. We wish you well in your future endeavors.