

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Douglas</b>	Ref: <b>116</b>
County: <b>Cork(South)</b>	Mark: <b>298</b>
Category: <b>G</b>	Date(s): <b>21/07/2018</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	44
Streetscape & Public Places	50	41
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>298</b>

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

Cuireann an moltoir seo faille roimh Dúbhglas chuig na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliuradh 60 Bliain an Chomortais. It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to visit Douglas for the first time. Thank you for your return to the competition and for your clear and comprehensive submission with map, which facilitated adjudication; in future years a summary of documents will suffice. Congratulations on the success of your recent recruitment drive to attract new members. We note that you have a very active committee membership comprising 8 sub-committees, have regular meetings and continually update your three-year-plan. The numerous organisations you liaise with throughout the year is impressive. We also note your active Facebook page and website, newsletters and use of print media in keeping the wider community informed of your activities. Getting young people involved in the Tidy Towns cause is very important and you appear to have achieved this with your Saturday morning Gaisce volunteers, TY students and scout group together with junior and senior schools.

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

Well done on your continued promotion of streetscape painting, signage and improvement scheme and your new guided heritage walks. Your adjudicator appreciates the creativity and visual amenity of introducing public art via the painting of utility boxes around the area; murals and street art in general is appealing. We wish you well in your endeavours with regard to the ducting of underground cables. In our experience, while this often takes several years to accomplish, the effects are very much worth the effort. Well done also on the new bilingual street signage. Both churches featured an excellent presentation and shopfronts looked well too especially along Douglas West. Maxi Zoo have full length window stickers which totally blacks out the window and diminishes the visual amenity of its surrounding area.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Douglas Community Park offers wonderful amenity facilities including a playground and outdoor gym. We acknowledge your liaising with various businesses within the area with regard to softening the appearance of their commercial premises with external planting and indeed flower displays were admired on many especially those on the John O Sullivan premises; rose displays at the entrance to the Golf Club were impressive. Planting throughout the area looks wonderful and your focus on perennials and sustainable planting is welcomed. One of your roundabouts is the best your adjudicator has seen anywhere in the country with its 'sculpted' plants. Your on-going efforts in Ballybrack Woods – The Mangala are noted with the Pedestrian and Cycle Routes particularly applauded. The murals are creative and a terrific example of getting young people involved in improving their community. We look forward to the opening of the Tramore Valley Park and appreciate your activities regarding the Tramore River Walk in terms of tree planting, litter picking and rubbish clearance. Your redevelopment of the Fingerpost Park is

commendable.

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

We welcome your Biodiversity Action Plan under this heading and wish you success in its implementation. Well done to your volunteers and scouts who planted 200 trees during National Tree Week and we look forward to the further 200 planned for later this year. Your liaison with local scouts to maintain the bat boxes and bee hotels is important and we hope that everyone involved is happy with the result. The management of invasive alien species is a difficult task for many communities throughout the country and your efforts in this regard are noted. Your Heritage Week events are very imaginative and sound informative. Your Pollinator Garden is also an excellent initiative and we look forward to learning the results of your Small Streams Characterisation System Survey. The 'beeline' on the roadside grass verge at Maryborough Hill is favourably noted. The entrance to Ballybrack Woods which feature murals on Community Life and a nice amenity roadside area is appealing. Burial grounds are being neatly maintained.

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

Your Facebook posts informing the wider community on how they can contribute under this heading are a good idea and we hope they receive the favourable response they deserve. Your Edible Trail is an excellent initiative also and one that will hopefully be repeated throughout many communities. We also applaud your efforts to provide alternative weed control measures in and around the Community Park. Further initiatives under this heading include water harvesting and composting to become self-sufficient in both. Water butts could be installed in locations convenient to planted areas and similarly a number of compost areas. Where new public lighting is to be installed in the future ensure that these are LED low energy lighting. Group future projects under the headings of Water Management, Energy Management, Transport Efficiencies and Prevention of Waste at Source and quantify savings achieved for feedback which will be a valuable measure of your success and motivator for the future.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Well done on your continued activities to reduce dumping in Douglas, from the installation of barrier poles to signage and cameras, etc. hopefully these will have the desired effect. It is clear from the amount of rubbish bags collected during your focused monthly litter-picks that this requires constant support from your volunteers, including the scouts and schools. Has the source of the dumped material been established? Litter control was really strong during adjudication, one litter bin noted needed refurbishment. Has the source, type and frequency of the litter been established? This kind of information can inform a more targeted strategy which may be effective in litter control; your continued participation in the National Spring Clean is laudable. Overhead service cables create visual clutter and the timber poles are unattractive, keep up the liaison with the council on this issue.

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

A coordinated colour scheme is suggested for a charming terrace of single storey dwellings in Douglas West. Estate entrances on the road up Maryborough Hill were admired for their lovely presentation. We applaud your support for the local residents' associations under this heading by the provision of equipment, advice and volunteers when possible, weeding and planting; improvements at Bramley Park are acknowledged. Remind residents to extend the maintenance of their properties to their roadside boundary walls and the area immediately outside of these.

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

Well done on working with Cork County Council and Cork City Council in undertaking the detailed survey of work to be accomplished on your approach roads; we look forward to witnessing your progress over the coming years regarding the improvements identified. We note your liaison also with your Tús scheme participants and Douglas Community Association in relation to weed removal and yearly daffodil planting. Churchyard Lane features a high-quality road and footpath surface and the high stone walls here are an attractive feature also. Signage is quite good and many street name plates looked new; name plates were not noted, perhaps these were missed by your adjudicator! The daffodils on the Carrigaline road must have been a wonderful sight in the Spring, the photograph certainly suggests they were.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Douglas is a hive of activity with work in progress on many improvements to the natural and built environments which when completed will enhance amenity opportunities for all.