

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bundoran** Ref: **697**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **246**
Category: **D** Date(s): **12/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	19
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	46
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
TOTAL MARK	450	246

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Bundoran TidyTowns is heartily welcome back to the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2016 after a two year absence. And in the two years since you last prepared Bundoran for the TidyTowns competition there have been major changes to the marking system. One hopes that these changes are not such a great shock to you. Thank you for your completed entry form, your 3 Year Plan and for the supplementary material. You appear to be in the process of renewal with a small committee for now but with plans to expand. It sounds like you are in the process of recruiting people with the skills you feel are necessary to be effective. Well done. Already you appear to be fully aware of the agencies and groups that can assist you in furthering your plans. Other plans are merely plans for now, which is understandable for a 'fledgling' committee. One hopes that you can now create a continuity of service, which seems to have escaped the TidyTowns committee in the past. In order to be effective TidyTowns needs to have time to become engrained in the town psyche. For next year's submission use the basic structure of the tourist map you enclose, delete what is not relevant to your needs and the needs of the adjudicator, include and number the tasks you have undertaken during the year.

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

Your submission tells of the many painting and restorative works that you have carried out in the past year. A trip along your main street fills one with the excitement of arriving at a seaside resort, the bright and varied colours filling one with excitement at the prospect of the day out or the week in Bundoran summer sunshine. As you well know not all of the buildings are resplendent in their summer best. Some buildings are clothed in the chipped paint that shows they have not been in demand for some time and are waiting for the suitable suitor to come along. One delightful Church needs to have the boarded windows renewed. But lets dwell on the positive. The Methodist Church from 1877 is being put to meaningful and exciting use. In another part of town an old building has been given new life by the Adventure Centre. The street exudes the holiday resort feel in terrace design, in shop fronts, in the bright coloured paint, the street art. But off the main street there has been much renewal. The Retail Park is a beautifully designed experience. The design of the library, of the Health Centre and of Magh Ene College compliment their most august traditional Church neighbours. So your paint work over the past year does make an impression. The Convent has much of its pride restored. The adjudicator would like to see greater use of the Gaeilge around the town. Eolas do chuairteoirí is hardly enough.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Bundoran is naturally landscaped by its wild surroundings be these mountains, cliffs, the Atlantic, the wild grasses. That protection of the natural landscaping must at all times be your priority. But there is the desire to enhance what nature naturally provides. And despite the many storms that your plants have to endure you succeed quite well.

This adjudicator likes the planters which are tall and to be found all over town. The perennial shrubs at, for instance the entrance to the Promenade Road seem to be ideal for this wind swept location. The hebes seem ideal as landscaping for the Catholic Church grounds. The retail park enlivens its built surroundings with the colourful hanging baskets. The roses in a roundabout look divinely suitable. Most open spaces look neat and tidy. There is an exception to that in an estate where the open space had not been mown for so long that the recently mown grass lies like hay and the litter settled in the grass is exposed, the mowing exposing and multiplying the offensive cans, cartons and bags. The adjudicator agrees with the apparent policy of not hanging baskets of summer annuals all along the street and also lauds the minimal use of window boxes which would most likely outlive the lovely paintwork along the street. The landscaping at the entrance to an estate on the Church Road needs to be completely overhauled. Is there a possibility for a wild flower area around the boulders in another area instead of letting the area grow wild?

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

A wildlife haven, this is. A wonderful natural amenity and one is pleased that the surfers exploit that natural beauty and wilderness. The Discover Bundoran information panels enrich the experience of the various walks along the cliffs. One compliments the people who have made the cliff way accessible and safe for the walker, the jogger, the biker and the bird watcher, the coloured surface is endearing. It must be gratifying to see so many use the wonderful walks. But the adjudicator feels that your committee is not proactive in the interests of natural habitats and the welfare of your seaside biodiversity. Your 3 Year Plan has very little attention to this section. This year's submission mentions that you work closely with the Glór na Mara Community Garden 'to determine the needs of the area'. One would like to know what you mean by 'needs'. Does determining needs mean the needs of the wildlife in the area or the need of those tilling the soil? The adjudicator came across an old hawthorn hedge in, maybe, Gaelic park Drive and this must be protected and cherished as a natural long standing habitat for many species.

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

Even though you state that you do not as yet engage with the schools you are aware that the school has its Green Flag. Well done to all involved in achieving that Green Flag. Do you know which Green Flag the school has achieved? Give a little more information on this in next year's submission. The adjudicator was delighted to find Glór na Mara. This community garden is alive and thriving. One can almost hear the various vegetables grow. It looks tended to and alive with activity, variety and care. This is a worthwhile project relevant to this section. But you have not got to grips with this sustainable living section of the competition as yet. Contact the Environment Area Officer for Donegal and let her know that you are the Tidy Towns Committee. And see what happens.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You declare in your submission that litter is a problem for the town. A town which has to cater for so many visitors is bound to encounter such a challenge. The challenge for you is in your response. Your submission should outline what your plan of action is with regard to avoiding littering and also what your policy is with regard to litter awareness. There are litter bins, generally in good condition strategically placed. The Main Street is quite free of litter. Good to see the dog fouling bins along the Roughty Walk. The problems seem to be in the housing estates where there is too high a frequency of littering.

The adjudicator was struck by how fresh the road markings on Main Street looked. Their fresh appearance immediately creates a cared-for look to the street. The proprietors of the various caravan parks present their surroundings with care and enhance their neighbourhood. Well done on your freshening of information panels. The work on the old ESB substation takes the bare look off of the remains and lessens its impact on the holiday surroundings.

Keep an eye out for instances of graffiti, as on the sign for Gaelic Park Drive. The untidy grass cutting in Gaelic Park Drive has already been mentioned. While most footpaths are in a good state of repair there are some stretches that require attention.

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

Bundoran has a rich heritage of housing appropriate to a traditional seaside destination. The terrace of housing facing the sea on main street express that seaside feeling. There are many generations of residential housing throughout and so much of which presents itself beautifully as the houses by the Catholic Church, for example. One is pleased to read that you intend to provide name plates or name stones for the various estates that do not have them. That is a worthwhile intention. While open space in many estates is being cared for there are examples where open spaces need to be reviewed. In an estate off Church Road the single trees in a wide expanse of grass shrivel from lack of protection from the wind and might be replaced with tree clusters. The adjudicator is pleased to read that you are engaging with various estates with a view to setting up residents associations. One task of such groups would be to manage the littering problems that bedevil many areas. One hopes that the new blocks of apartments overlooking the sea will add to the residential stock of the town in time.

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

One loved the approach into the town from the Sligo side. The terraces of older houses create an effect of wafting one into another age, very appropriate for a seaside town. This is an exciting approach road to the town. There is also variety in the presentation with Glór na Mara being a refreshing break from the housing. But the East End approach also offers possibilities with the invitation to take the Tullan Strand Road. But this route into town is more commercial with some black spots that will hopefully recuperate in time. The adjudicator loved the many lanes off main street that lead naturally down to the beach and have been home to so many for generations. The

connectivity between the main street and the sea is a feature of this town.

Concluding Remarks:

Bundoran has been a most enjoyable experience. One gets the sense of a community and a town in recovery. There is an optimism about the colour in the town, the new buildings, the street art and the vitality that the young surfers bring to this lovely area.