

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bundoran** Ref: **697**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **272**
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	41	42
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	32	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	24	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	13	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	264	272

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

Welcome Bundoran Tidy Towns to the 2018 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form, 3 year plan, 2 maps and booklet. Your maps are very clear and your projects are numbered on it. Your population of 2,844 puts you in Small Town D. You have a committee of 6 and you have 20 volunteers. Your committee has monthly meetings. The list of your supporters runs from Discover Bundoran to TUS/DLDC. Your principal channel of communication is Facebook and your Tidy Towns website. You also use the traditional print media. You engage well with your local schools. The specific project where particular effort was required was your "Community Challenge Day". Your first entry in the competition was 2006. You summarise very well the impact of your Tidy Towns group on your community.

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

The old cottage at the East End was admired. Impeccably painted white with a red door it has 2 hanging baskets adding colour. The thatched roof is also impeccable. Although it is probably the smallest house in Bundoran it is the most stand out one. The Boathouse Hostel also looks well. The Post Office and its bottle bank were visited. The Post Office looks well. Noted that the Selfie Trail will be launched soon. The old Hire and Sell building has been nicely painted. The murals on the former library and council office were admired. Noted that the Astoria wall has been painted. The new window panels have enhanced the lifeguard tower. Improvement to Surfboard House noted. The amusement arcade mural admired. The new footpaths were noted.

The Peter Brady Park with the colourful childrens play area looks well. The Republican Plot is worth visiting. Thanks to sponsorship it is extensive and is well presented. The Allington Arms Hotel on Main Street stands out. The Hotel Holyrood also looks well. Finner Church of Irealnd is imposing. It is in a key location on the Main Street. The Tourist Office looks well. It is at the edge of a major construction site. That part of Bundoran will be greatly enhanced when work is finished.

The cleared site where once the Astoria Ballroom stood was visited. The Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea is also imposing. It is a fine, big building that dominates its surroundings. The river bank looks very well. The Garda Station is well presented. On Shiel Avenue St Macartan's National School is neat and tidy but it needs painting. Maghene Collge is a modern building which was awarded its first Green Flag. Well done to all involved. The retail park which has Lidl, Cineplex, Supervalu, etc. is impressive. All clean and tidy. The library is a very modern building that stands out. It is well presented and has an interesting 2 headed sculpture in front of it.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The area behind the Tourist Office is part of a major improvement to the banks of the stream and a new bridge and also improvements to the car park. It is a work in progress. It will be adjudicated on its completion. At the East End and the Surf Board shop there are 2 empty 3 tier planters. Also 2 trees in planters are neglected. One outside Frizzells butchers is leaning over. It is not clear who is responsible for these.

Two 3 tier planters are full of flowers in this area. In the Finner roundabout area 3 well filled planters area on the footpath into the town. The Community Gardens were visited. It is very impressive. A major part of it is given over to allotments. There are bee hives and bug hotels. Providing screening from the weather are groups of willows. Opposite the Peter Brady park is a 3 tier planter with nothing in it but weeds. On Main Street, on the sea side, at regular intervals along the footpath there are 3 tier planters and square planters with trees in them. Seats and litter bins are clean. Improvement works are under way at the end of the car park. A planted area beside the Tourist Office looks very well.

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

Well done to the junior infants, with the help of the 5th year pupils, of St Macartan's National School who have planted 50 sunflowers in the school grounds. They also took some home to grow. Two further bee hives, each with 30,000 bees, have been installed at Glór na Mara Community Garden. This is excellent news during the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. We look forward to the outcome of the planting by 2nd class, St Macartan's School in the Community Garden. Bundoran Tidy Towns is commended for its annual organic course which has 15 members attending it.

This adjudicator photographed the allotments at the Community Garden because they all looked to be thriving. Well done to all involved. This adjudicator noticed that the lifeguards hut has a display board at Bundoran's sea birds. It is very professionally done and was done by St Macartan's National School. Well done to all involved.

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

May this adjudicator gently remind you that priorities in this category have changed and the changes date back to 2013 and were in the Tidy Towns handbook issued at the time. Subsequently marks were increased from 20 marks to 50 marks in recognition of the time and effort given by Tidy Towns groups to this category. This was EU motivated. Also, this category has evolved in line with current waste prevention and best policy guidelines. The EU Waste Management Hierarchy new puts waste prevention ahead of waste treatment in terms of priorities. To progress in this category you need projects in waste prevention. You also need to use your communication channels to promote to your community the need to stop waste entering in the first place. You should tell your community that priority is now elimination rather than reduction, although that is still important.

Because of the interrupted nature of your entry into the Tidy Towns competition you may have missed these two documents. Many schools and colleges are switching from plastic to reusable bottles. Take away food outlets are also changing to compostable cups, etc. Schools in the Green Flag programme are teaching their school children to conserve water, electricity, etc. The greater the number of Green Flags that they have the more likely that school is to have a school garden, bird boxes and bird tables, wildlife surveys, etc. Rain water harvesting is being adopted increasingly by Tidy Towns groups. This is a category where projects can be undertaken that score marks.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Thank you for attending to last year's adjudicators recommendations. The post office car park has 4 clean bottle bins and 1 clean clothes container. The Supervalu bottle bank has 4 bottle bins and 2 clothes containers. All clean. However, there were 2 black plastic sacks of rubbish left on the ground. Your anti litter programme is effective thanks to the TUS employees, the Magh Ene College students and your own Tidy Towns colleagues.

Bundoran Tidy Towns is also commended on the number of Clean Coast beach clean ups you have undertaken, with more to come. Your advert in the 2018 Discover Bundoran booklet was noted. Your tips on Facebook are also commended. The car boot sale is also noted. The roundabouts were clean as were the main roads into the town. In the town centre there were the usual cigarette butts and occasional scraps of paper. However, there is untidiness. Near the road to the pier, on the Main Street, is an old letter box that badly needs a cleaning/painting.

On the Promenade Road there is a 2 storey disused building which needs attention. There is advice in the Tidy Towns Handbook on ways to camouflage a disused building. The scale of this one may be beyond a Tidy Towns group. There are excellent efforts to camouflage some buildings on the Main Street/East End. There are 2 and 3 tier planters around the town that look neglected with few flowers growing and very little compost. It is not clear who is responsible for these.

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

This category is as important as each of the other categories. We depend on the Tidy Towns group to mark and name on their map the residential estates. They should also be mentioned in this category in the entry form. Your map does name a lot of residential areas but there are as many unnamed. Handwritten will suffice. In the entry form the notes for this category say "Where possible individual estates should have suitable name signs". You tell us of a new name sign for Stracomer View and that this is part of a rollout of estate name signs. Thank you for alerting us. This report goes to next years adjudicator who has been alerted to these new name signs. It could influence marks in this category. Well done to those who painted a derelict house at East End. Gaelic Park Drive was visited. It is a mature neighbourhood and residences look well. Grass area well maintained. Some of the houses have steps up to their hall door. All neat and clean. The residential area under the 9/14 on your map is new and houses look well. Lissadell Avenue has a fine name stone on a wall at the entrance. A mature neighbourhood it also has a well filled 3 tier flower planter at its entrance. Houses look well.

Dereliction is a problem. Opposite Peter Brady Park are 2 three storey semi detached houses – 1 is functioning as a fine house and its next door neighbour is derelict. It is too big a job for Bundoran Tidy Towns. The 2 unfinished houses near Finner roundabout are also an eyesore. So is the large premises on the corner of the Promenade and Main Street.

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

As you know approach roads are important because they help to create the first impression of a town or village. Tullaghan roundabout has a bi-lingual name sign with crests on a well cut grass roundabout. There is nothing else growing on it. Some thought should be given to planting on it. An alternative is a piece of sculpture. Donegal County Council has lots of experience with both options. There is a 60km traffic speed sign which has Bundoran on it. Another sign celebrates Bundoran twinning and includes colourful flags on it. A large Tidy Towns sign says “Keep Bundoran Tidy”. It stands beside a raised bed of flowers. The footpath is new and has a gravel area between the path and a low wall. A good first impression of Bundoran.

At the other end of the town Finner roundabout is the first impression of Bundoran. It has stone flower containers on a neatly cut grass surface. There is a large black and white bi-lingual Finner Road roundabout. The Tullaghan roundabout has a green and white sign. The colour should be harmonised. The flowers on this roundabout have been sponsored. A possible solution for Tullaghan roundabout. The colourful Bundoran twinning sign is close by. Unfortunately, there are 2 unfinished houses standing in a field close to the roundabout. A Bundoran Tidy Towns sign says “Keep Bundoran Tidy” and it stands by a raised flower bed. Unfortunately a garishly coloured sign on top of the Tidy Towns sign is advertising a €5,000 bingo event. That sign should have been taken down. There are 3 and 2 tier flower planters on the opposite side of the road. A large, disused filling station is in a key location at the roundabout. It and the 2 unfinished houses detract from the good impression of Bundoran.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure adjudicating Bundoran Tidy Towns. We look forward to receiving your entry form next year.