

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Rosslare - Roslair** Ref: **258**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **331**
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/06/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	54	56
Streetscape & Public Places	60	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	46	47
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	63	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
TOTAL MARK	470	322	331

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

Cuireann an moltóir fáilte roimh Rosslare - Ros Láir páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for entering the Tidy Towns Competition for the 21st time and for your very clear and concise submission and in particular your covering letter highlighting the responses to the comments of last year's adjudicator. Your submission overall was excellent and is one of the best applications this adjudicator has seen to date. The well-presented map and numbered project list were all very helpful to the adjudicator. Thank you for your comprehensive 3-Year Plan 2019/2022 which sets out a great vision and strategy for necessary improvements over the coming years. It is great to see you have an active group of twelve members in your Tidy Towns Committee supported by a large number of 31 volunteers meeting monthly assisting you with your work. It is noted that you have forged strong relationships with a range of local groups and individuals to further your aims – this is crucial. Your specialised sub-committee approach to completing various tasks is also a good model for the future. Rosslare Tidy Town volunteers continue to have a high profile working in the local community and it is great to note that new members are being attracted to take part in your work programmes, through simply seeing the other Volunteer Teams out and about. Well done on organising a successful and well-attended Spring Cleaning event this year. You have established contacts with a wide range of organisations which provide ongoing support and sponsorship and it is clear that your engagement with the local community, local schools etc. continues to be very effective. The use of Tidy Towns logos on the jerseys of the local football club is a great initiative to spread awareness of your activities. The Community Hub is a terrific idea and will no doubt get great use particularly over the summer months providing information to the public about your activities. The provision of a defibrillator in the Village Centre is also a very worthwhile initiative, particularly as Rosslare is very popular with holidaymakers during the summer months. The regulation of car parking in the village through the use of an overhead barrier at the Beach car park, providing for additional car parking capacity at this location is important particularly during the busy Summer season. The community notice boards erected at 4 locations in the village look well and are a great addition to the facilities available in your town. The Community Centre is also to be commended for the revamp of the crazy golf facility. It is good to see that you are liaising closely with Wexford County Council in relation to the control and regulation of dogs on beaches and throughout the community. The enforcement of existing Bye-laws and regulations is very important in this regard. However, it is always good to review how the existing Bye-Laws are in fact working in practice to meet the needs of local residents and visitors alike. Your continued use of the Cois Barry Community Centre is a great example your continuing efforts to foster improved community co-operation and social inclusion. You are actively engaging with stakeholders in relation to future developments in the Rosslare area, to ensure that the appropriate public facilities are put in place.

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

Under this category you have made good progress in dealing with a number of derelict and poorly maintained

properties which currently detract from the appearance of specific areas in your town. It is good to know that you have now made contact with Wexford County Council and have provided a report which outlines the most important issues to be dealt with in relation to these properties. It is also encouraging to note that due to your efforts, the Garda Barracks and the Railway Station buildings have also been improved in recent weeks. The conversion of the Convent building is also a great addition to your town and the involvement of Rosslare Tidy Towns in progressing the renovation and appropriate after use of this historic property is to be commended. It is great to see that you are undertaking research in relation to Churchtown graveyard. This is considered a very worthwhile project and it would be beneficial to provide some on-site information for visitors on the history of the graveyard and perhaps to carry out some sensitive maintenance and improvement works to improve accessibility and the overall presentation and appearance of the site. In this regard, it is recommended that you should liaise with the Office of Public Works and the owner of the property who will provide good advice as to how such a sensitive project might best be undertaken, taking into account the need to protect the heritage structures and biodiversity present in the area. Unfortunately, your adjudicator was unable to find the graveyard on the way to Tagoat - perhaps better signage is needed here. You are to be commended for the terrific work undertaken to clear footpaths of overhanging vegetation and in for lobbying the County Council for additional footpaths and traffic-calming measures. Well done on the impressive Community Hub building - this was very bright and lifted the spirit in the centre of the town and matched the 'blue and white' theme which is prevalent in Rosslare. Unfortunately, the building was locked on the day of adjudication and there was no reference on the door to opening times - perhaps this can be addressed later in the season.

The overhead barriers looked very well painted an attractive blue colour. The planters in the car park complete with pollinator-friendly floral displays were well presented.

The community notice board at the far end of the car park in the shape of a sailing boat was particularly appealing. The nearby public toilets were brightly painted and excellently maintained both inside and outside.

It would be good to see some improvements in relation to the window stickers at the Centra Store, as these do detract from the streetscape in the centre of Rosslare. The window display at the nearby Rosslare pharmacy was in contrast particularly attractive with an array of beach figurines.

Kelly's Deli looked good with a well-maintained frontage.

The 'Wild and Native' premises had a beautiful frontage with flowering daisies along the boundary, although some maintenance is needed on the facade of the building.

The new Tidy Towns signs looked very well with comprehensive information provided to the public. The 'Tides' gastro pub was well presented and added to the streetscape of the town.

The frontage and grounds of the National School, St. Bridget's Church were both maintained to a high standard. It was good to note the restoration works continuing on the Convent Building.

The adjudicator was particularly impressed with the presentation of the grounds at the Community Centre in the vicinity of the 'New 2 You' Charity Boutique - great name. The revamp of the crazy golf facility was noted and the colourful display of poppies located behind the boundary fence here caught the eye. The range of sports and other facilities available to the public at the Community Centre is quite amazing. The Coastguard Station on the Mauritiustown Road would benefit from some painting. The Rosslare Strand train station was visited and this area is currently dominated by boundary fences, railings and other metal structures. The station and surrounding area would benefit from the introduction of some carefully planned landscape elements including trees, planters, hedge planting along metal railings etc. Perhaps an overall landscape plan for the station could be devised in consultation with Iarnród Éireann. Are additional car parking facilities required here?

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The boulders along the frontage of the Watersports Garden area do not enhance this part of the town and a replacement boundary treatment would be a great improvement here. These boulders are difficult to maintain and can become a potential hazard to the public. We wish you well in your discussions with stakeholders with a view to implementing a longer-term plan for the green space and improving the usability and the appearance of this area. It is good to note that you are moving away from annual bedding schemes towards more sustainable maritime herbaceous-perennial plantings - the maintenance and presentation of these plantings was to a very high standard. This is a very good strategy for the future as Rosslare is impacted by salt-laden winds from the East and Northeast. The local family who presented the Tidy towns with the new seat made from recycled plastic and erected on the Cliff are to be commended for their community spirit.

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

We wish you well with the ongoing implementation of your 5-year Sand Dune restoration programme. Sand dunes are very important wildlife habitat with unique characteristics and flora and fauna and your efforts in this regard are highly commended. It is good to note the co-operation that you have received from Clean Coasts and Wexford County Council in the ongoing implementation of this project. It would be good to monitor the growth of the new Marram planting to ensure the dune restoration works are successful. The new hedgerow planting at Pill Bridge has also been a major improvement here and the planting mix using native species such as Hazel, Hawthorn, Whitethorn, Guelder Rose and Holly is very appropriate and will encourage the development suitable biodiversity in this area, as well as improving the road frontage. Hedgerows are very important part of the landscape of Ireland and the restoration of hedgerows particularly along public roads is very important. It is amazing to note that an exotic bird from Africa has made it's home in Rosslare, the Glossy Ibis. Despite great efforts the Adjudicator failed to see this illusive bird. It is important that this bird is not disturbed in its new home in South Wexford. Would you consider developing a managed nature park or wildfowl reserve in this area which could be developed as protected zone and possible future visitor attraction. Very well done on the completion of the *Armeria maritima* (Sea Thrift) planting from Mauritiustown steps to the Strand Road. Some plants were missing from the wall on the day of adjudication, but maybe these can be replaced in due course. This planting when established will enhance the overall appearance of

the wall and will provide an important source of food for local pollinators.

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

A lot of work has been put in by your committee in preparing and also organising the Community Survey in relation to local recycling. The survey questionnaire was very concise and professionally put together and congratulations to all concerned. This is a terrific initiative and will help your Committee and other parties such as Wexford County Council to plan for the future in relation to dealing with and recycling waste. We await the results of your survey with interest. The increased recycling rates at the Rosslare car park recycling area and bottle banks are encouraging. It is great to note that you have been able to assist a local soccer club by providing additional rainwater harvesting tanks on the roof of the Community Centre. Rainwater Harvesting projects are very appropriate under this category as water conservation is a very important and pressing issue at present. Perhaps you might also consider in conjunction with the Community Centre, the provision of solar panels on the roof the Centre to provide water heating and power generation. Grants may be available for this purpose from Sustainable Ireland. Well done on your successful 'Conscious Cup' campaign which is now gaining good traction amongst local businesses and cafés in Rosslare. Discarded coffee cups are a major problem particularly on roads in the countryside and your efforts in this regard will no doubt help to reduce unsightly litter along our roadsides. Your expanded Rosslare Spring Clean which included the Sand Dunes area has been very successful this year and it is good to know that the recycling theme has proved beneficial with free metal recycling provided. Perhaps for next year under this category you might consider installing additional electric-car charging points at a number of public locations in the town e.g. beach car park, train station etc. It was great to see the large number of electric car-charging spaces provided at the Kelly's Hotel car park. The Hotel Owners are to be commended for the foresight and commitment to energy sustainability here. The recycling area at the beach car park was found to be very neat and tidy and it was good to see newspaper recycling available here. The Charity Boutique at the Community Centre appears to be operating successfully.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your litter patrols have been very successful in maintaining a clean and tidy Town centre. Well done to all those who take part in this work on an ongoing basis. It is good to note that you have recently been able to meet with officials of Wexford County Council to discuss how improvements under the Tidiness and Litter Control category can be made. Close cooperation between the Tidy Towns Committee and the County Council is essential to ensure the potential for Rosslare to advance well in the competition is realised. Regular meetings with Council officials can ensure that the objectives of Rosslare Tidy Towns become very closely aligned to the objectives and local activities of the County Council, to the benefit of the entire community. The Adjudicator was impressed with the 'hashtag two-minute beach clean' initiative – one wonders how successful this scheme is? In general, the standard of litter control in the Town was very good with a total absence of litter on the main thoroughfares and approach roads -well done.

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

The reduced numbers of permanent residents in some of your housing estates can give rise to a problem in relation to ensuring that a high standard of maintenance is provided on a year-round basis. However, you have made good strides in establishing a rapport with residents in this regard particularly with residents in Southfields Estate, South Bay and Clonmaine. It is good to know that the South Bay Estate has benefited from some native tree planting in the last number of years. It is also very encouraging that a total of 10 of your Estates have entered into the Best-Kept Estate Competition. These competitions are very important in creating a friendly rivalry between housing estates, thereby improving the overall standard of estate presentation in the town. The following are some observations noted by the adjudicator under this category, during the inspection and walkabout of the town;

The high standard of presentation of the houses and gardens along Station Road was particularly noted. South Bay Estate was visited and some staining was noted on perimeter walls along the entrance road. Individual residences and open space areas are maintained to a high standard. Consider planting Boston Ivy along the walls along the entrance road.

Clearwater Cove Estate was visited and individual houses and gardens were well presented. There is unsightly concrete fencing here on the boundary of the open space and also an ESB substation. Consider screen hedge planting to reduce the impact of these features together with an unsightly ESB cabinet on the central open space. The stone cladding requires repair on the estate entrance piers.

The painted walls and piers enhance the entrance to The Cove housing estate and the open spaces and grass margins here are maintained to a good standard.

At Commodore Barry Park the public areas are maintained to a high standard with well-maintained open spaces punctuated with attractive low stone walls. A clump of Eucalyptus trees provide an attractive feature on the main open space. A small amount of litter was noted in one of the cul-de-sacs here.

At Kinsella Meadows the entrance stone would benefit from cleaning and surround pollinator planting.

At Cois Mara Estate the adjudicator enjoyed treatment of the ESB substation on the open space which has been covered with 'aquatic' stickers. This estate would benefit from tree planting along roadside margins and on open spaces and it would also be good to provide some pollinator planting around the boulder features.

Rosefield Estate was visited and weeds were noted along the kerbs along the entrance Road.

Clonmaine Estate has a very attractive entrance and the open space and individual gardens and properties and maintained to a very high standard here.

Cluain Aoibhinn and Ard Aoibhinn Estates were visited and the community orchard was noted positively. However, some of the fruit trees require formative pruning. The open spaces are maintained to a good standard and it would

be a good idea to provide hedge planting along perimeter walls at the entrance to the estates. Seabury Estate has a very attractive entrance with well-maintained feature plantings on both sides of the entrance. The presentation of individual houses and open spaces here was to a very high standard. Shrub planting has been used to good effect to reduce the visual impact of an ESB substation located on the open space. Southfields Estate also had a very attractive entrance with white walls and extensive lavender planting. This estate was very attractively presented with individual houses well looked after and public areas providing for recreational opportunities such as children's playgrounds, adult exercise equipment and tennis courts. This development is no doubt a good model for other future developments in the area.

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

The new footpath, lighting, signage and road improvements on the R736 approach road from Rosslare Europort has made a big improvement both visually and in terms of the overall safety of road users and pedestrians. Your efforts in lobbying for improvements here have brought dividends and the new 'Welcome' sign was particularly impressive and perhaps you could consider providing a planting bed at the base of the new sign in the future. The entrance to Rosslare along the R740 is characterised by clean, well maintained roadside edges with appropriate long grass wildlife retreat areas, good footpaths and attractive boundary walls and clipped hedges. The highlight of this approach is the beautifully presented roundabout planting scheme near Clonmaine estate. The use of attractive perennial pollinator friendly planting and central Cordyline feature was very positively noted here.

Concluding Remarks:

Rosslare Tidy Towns continues to hold firm to the Community engagement ethos of the Tidy Towns Competition and you are making great strides in this regard. With a strong and active Committee you will continue to generate interest in your work from local residents, encouraging even greater Community participation. We wish you well in your future endeavours.