

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Portrunny** Ref: **2224**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	42	43
Streetscape & Public Places	50	33	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	25	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	20	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	12	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	20	21
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25	26
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>249</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Port Reanna chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Portrun Development Association CLG are welcomed to the competition. Your application form is excellent for only being your second time entry in the competition. Your map however could be improved. Start by adding a key on the map to tell us what the numbers relate to. Perhaps if you included one table with your list of projects and corresponding number, similar to that which was included under each category, this would have been easier to decipher while out and about, rather than flicking back and forth through your application. Thank you for addressing the suggestions provided by last year's adjudicator. Your committee of ten are fortunate to receive support from an additional eight volunteers. This level of community involvement is excellent and with this support behind you great things are achievable. Furthermore, you have developed good working relationships with various agencies and bodies, including Roscommon County Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Waterways Ireland. Communication with your stakeholders is via website and a local database but we would discourage use of flyers, unless deemed necessary. Consider using social media such as Twitter and Facebook also to engage with a broad range of stakeholder. We noted on your website that the position of TidyTowns Competition Development Officer is currently vacant. Hopefully not for too long!

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

Built heritage is another area that you are excelling in thus far. Your new Heritage Trail is very informative with excellent signage. It's also unusual that it is linked with Kiltewan Heritage Trail – a selling point when promoting the trail. We really admired your 'Past, Present & Future' signage and how you have engaged with the younger generation to develop a clear vision for the future. What a wonderful idea! Shannon View Lodge occupies a very prominent position on the harbour front and it would be wonderful to see it being put to good use. Are there any plans for this building? The new slipway is a major future planned project for your area and we wish you well as you work with the various agencies and bodies to bring this project to fruition.

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

The shoreline walk is a nice amenity and many people were enjoying this. Planting hedging and trees is the way to go which last year's adjudicator instilled upon you and you have initiated a tree and hedge planting programme that will reap benefits for future generations.

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

You have been busy under this competition category and are working on ways to conserve the biodiversity given

your location in a Special Area of Conservation. We noted one of your hedgehog boxes at the old graveyard; you've been working on a barn owl conservation project and installing bird boxes at various locations throughout the village. Flora and fauna related educational signage is to a very high standard. You have started two community bee hives but unfortunately we didn't locate them but do like this idea. It's wonderful that you have a local beekeeper willing to give time to educate others on the art of bee-keeping. This initiative, coupled with your implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, will help the survival of bees and pollinator in Ireland. Perhaps down the line we will be purchasing honey from Portrun Development Association/TidyTowns!

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

We hope you are enjoying the benefits of the new lawnmower you purchased that has mulching capacity. We also like your idea to apply for Blue Flag status at Portrunny and you inform us that that will bring with it improved environmental sustainability of certain facilities. Would an electric car charging point be used at the Harbour? There are lots of ideas that could be developed under this category depending on you interested. You could promote the reduction of single use plastics amongst the community in relation to straws, coffee cups and the like. Other TidyTowns have supported the Conscious Cup Campaign. Supporting Buy Local Initiatives, Waste Free Christmas, Energy Saving Initiatives, Sustainable Travel, etc are all themes you could consider. We liked the opportunity to purchase locally ourselves and we were impressed with the goats cheese handmade by Jirka and purchased from The Little Flock Farm. Perhaps down the line we will be purchasing local honey from Portrun Development Association/TidyTowns also!

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

There is a redundant pole that should be removed at the green on the approach road. Your adjudicator had the misfortune of standing in dog foul somehow (near the public toilets) and got one sole covered. To make matters worse I have only recently purchased new walking shoes in preparation for the adjudication period. This scourge really does put one in a bad mood! People should be more responsible and clean up after their dogs. We note that you have been working with Roscommon County Council to promote the Green Dog Walkers initiative. We wish you well as you progress this but more education amongst locals and visitors is required. There was also quite a bit of litter around the public toilet block and inside the toilet itself was littered with beer bottles, crisp packets and confectionary related litter. Perhaps you need to step up the frequency of your clean-ups during the busy tourist season. We visited during the summer heat wave and there were a good number of people enjoying the lovely area of Portrunny. We noted people enjoying the sun along the lake shore and there was a good deal of litter strewn in the grass nearby, we gave them the benefit of the doubt and have assumed they would have taken this home with them. You have conducted the Leave No Trace Training and its worthy that you are going to ensure that future plans take on-board the Leave No Trace ethos. The National Spring Clean is a great initiative and we thank you for participating.

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

The housing stock is limited in Portrunny but residents are playing their part cutting grass within curtilage and maintaining boundaries. You state that farmers are also becoming more aware of the importance of maintaining field gates and entrances etc.

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

The townland markers add interest along the roadside. We noted the resurfacing works on An Bothar Mór and also the works to St. Diarmaid's Holy Well. The Welcome Sign area is attractive; consider planting suitable perennials for your rural lakeshore location over annuals and bedding plants. Painting the field gates all the same colour gives a coordinated feel to a centre.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

You certainly have been working hard over this past year and we were impressed with your rural charm in an outstandingly beautiful area. We hope you are pleased with your success to date and are enthused to keep up the hard work. We wish you well with your planned projects in the year ahead and hope you find some suggestions useful.