

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterfall** Ref: **1746**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	31	33
Streetscape & Public Places	50	31	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	31	33
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	23	25
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	34
TOTAL MARK	450	242	257

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Tobar an Iarla chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Thank you for this year's application with three-year plan and well enumerated plan both of which were helpful for adjudication. The committee's approach to competing in the competition is well thought out with projects under all headings. Impressive also is the wide range of supporting groups, bodies and agencies and an equally wide-ranging variety of communication methods. Involvement of youth / school children in the work of the Tidy Towns is a significant investment in the future of Waterfall. Work accomplished to highlight the beauty of the railway bridge in 2018 is exciting and we look forward to its (possibly solar-powered) illumination in years to come. It is satisfying to note the benefits to the community in the three short years since Waterfall first entered the competition; we look forward to many future adjudications in your lovely village.

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

The plethora of projects undertaken in 2017/2018 is impressive although some of those listed rightly belong in the Green areas and Landscaping category of the competition. O'Sheas Bar is nicely presented and the recently painted roadside boundary wall to the church is favourably noted. Pride of place must go to the highlighting of the railway bridge by clearing it of unwanted growth to feature its architectural merits, the refurbishment of the Ballinora bridge and the new stone wall and seating at the bridge and the Grotto in Curraheen. The mural at the entrance to the GAA grounds is appreciated also. Additional signage both directional and heritage is invaluable for navigating the parish area.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Commiserations regarding storm damage wrecked by storm Ophelia especially that to mature trees; the proactive response of the community is impressive. Beautiful landscaping with shrubs rose beds and flowers located across from O'Sheas Bar including maturing trees make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of Waterfall. Attractive landscaping to the roadside approaching the bridge and a lovely name stone here are an excellent introduction to Waterfall. The work involved in clearing rough growth on the embankment has paid dividends as it looks lovely. Floral displays through the parish area are colourful, well done on sponsorship from Quish's SuperValu in Ballincollig for this initiative; green areas enjoy good maintenance also. In future landscaping initiatives keep in mind the requirement for seasonal interest and colour as well as the needs of wildlife and chose native species where possible.

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

The installation of Bug Hotels, Bat and Bird Boxes at a variety of locations is laudable and all involved are to be thanked; their monitoring is another matter and we appreciate the difficulties in this respect; some committees have had cameras installed in bird boxes to enable video footage of life in a bird's nest! The work of the Ballinora National School students and their teachers for their Biodiversity Green Flag is inspirational for the rest of us. Congratulations are extended to sixth class for qualifying for the Irish Aids Awards and we wish them every success. There is no mention in your entry of a dedicated pollination project in line with the current National Pollination Plan although cognisance has been taken of what appears to be a beeline along the main thoroughfare. At some future time, a report on the Biodiversity status of Waterfall should be undertaken to facilitate an integrated approach to managing its biodiversity.

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

It is good to note that Waterfall is self – sufficient in water resources for watering landscaped areas. The re-use of old stones for the stone ditch refurbishment near the bridge is applauded as is the use of a lime mortar. The Bring Bank located in the pub car park is well maintained with no evidence of dumping or overspill on adjudication day. To make significant progress under this heading projects should be grouped under 'water resource management', 'energy resource management' 'transportation', and 'waste prevention at source'. Having at least one project under each heading should help improve performance. Another boost might be to quantify savings made with each initiative to enable progress to be measured and feedback given to participants.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Waterfall's participation in the National Spring Clean is favourably noted; there is no mention in your entry of participation in the County Anti-Litter Campaign. Litter control throughout the parish is strong and weed control is good too. The segregation of litter for recycling is commendable and the two recently installed litter bins are favourably noted. It is good to note the reduction in illegal dumping. The construction site close to O'Sheas Bar is well screened however, there are a lot of derelict looking structures to the rear of the pub itself. Wire-scape crossing the road at or near O'Sheas Bar looks quite bad and diminishes visual amenity.

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

Attractive houses with natural stone roadside boundary walls were admired and one yet to be constructed has been noted. Many nicely grassed roadside areas to boundary walls are a welcome feature of Waterfall too. The Heather Field residential development is beautifully landscaped and grassed areas maintained to a high standard; young trees are maturing well. An attractive seated amenity area at the entrance to Springfield is a welcome development; all of the roadside boundaries in this development are nicely shaped hedge-row. Liaison with resident's associations is fruitful and of particular merit is help given to householders unable, for a variety of reasons, to undertake improvements themselves. Well done on consultations with developers at the pre-planning stage.

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

The committee's strategy regarding the maintenance of grass verges throughout the parish is well informed and practical and it was a pleasure to note some well-defined access points to the village. Your adjudicator suggests that all signage, information and interpretive panels, feature as a sub-text "Waterfall / Ballinora" (or vis/versa) to highlight the extent of the parish area and Waterfall's place within it; this will ensure that all areas of the parish are included in adjudication and of course inform the travelling public. Direction signs are helpful and the townland name-stones are a nice touch although can be easily missed as they are so close to the ground. Street furniture, bridges, stone walls, footpaths, road surfaces and more enjoy an excellent standard of presentation. Congratulations on the installation of the digital speed signs, hopefully they will be effective.

Concluding Remarks:

Waterfall Ballinora is a charming rural settlement incorporating a fairly extensive area which is challenging for the committee and admittedly for a visitor new to the area too. The installation of direction signage coupled with clearly identifiable access to focal points of the parish area facilitates navigation throughout.