

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leixlip - Léim an Bhradáin** Ref: **376**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **326**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **18/06/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	54	54
Streetscape & Public Places	60	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	37	37
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	54
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	37	38
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	38
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>326</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Léim an Bhradáin/Leixlip chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2019. Leixlip is very welcome to this year's Tidy Towns Competition. It is impressive to read that Leixlip has been involved in this great community initiative now for 57 years. That is a praiseworthy record and we can agree when you state it has brought a lot of benefits to the people living in your area. You can be proud of your recent achievements in attaining medals, most recently the gold medal of 2018.

We note you have a committee of twelve members who are actively supported by another ten individuals, as well as some others who can be called on to assist. Leixlip has a stated population of over 15,000 and that places you in the category of large urban centres. You are commended for the wide range of methods you employ to spread news of your activities and projects. The well-placed public noticeboard appears to work well also. The work trailer is, as you say, a great method of free advertising.

We thank you for the well constructed map, with projects and other details set out on an Ordnance Survey base. That map was easy to follow when we sought out the individual sites.

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

We applaud the shopfront improvement campaign. We were delighted to hear that your work has raised awareness of the heritage and history of Leixlip. Moving around the town we could see that much is being done to integrate the new growth. In places we saw how the pressure of fitting in major infrastructure still takes time, for example the large electricity pylon (double circuit) standing in the Lidl car park.

Arriving at the Wonderful Barn brought us into another era. It is an impressive landmark associated with the Castletown demesne. We noted that conservation work has been undertaken and the green apron to the front is well maintained. We were very impressed with the extent of the allotments around the Wonderful Barn and they were busy on adjudication day.

We found the Confey cemetery very well looked after. The roadside walls are brightly painted with some of the Red Robin emerging on top. The flat lawn is a tranquil space, marked here and there with individual trees, the weeping one commemorating a former caretaker.

On our walk around the town centre we noted Watkins' File Centre has an elegant and restrained shopfront on Main Street. Evolve, Bernard Owens' and the Town Bar were likewise well presented. Mill Lane looked bright and

cheerful. No.1 and no.45 Main Street have really imposing facades. We took the access through Ralph Square to the riverside walk and it was a lovely surprise. The health centre and fire station both looked well.

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

The ESB substation project was nicely executed and the plants were doing well. You have given priority to the project for age-friendly seats along the River Rye. Placing them close to a nursing home can add to their practical use. It is great to see also that the new seats are entirely made up of recycled materials.

The new daisies on Easton Road make a big statement and are doing very well. We were really impressed by the amount of planting and beds that you maintain. Congratulations to all involved. The planting opposite Hewlett Packard was thriving. The display panel for the heritage trail was eye-catching. We were very impressed with the landscaping on Captain's Hill.

Your major project beside Rye Home is well executed. However, we wondered at the choice of the position chosen, especially where so many vantage points present themselves on the slopes overlooking the river.

Over recent years Leixlip has become endowed with a very useful array of public seats and benches. You might come to review the choice of location in some instances so that each seat gains the optimum aspect. More judicious seat points might be considered in the case of the riverbank, besides the nursing home and again behind Main Street. We do, of course, understand that choices in some cases must have regard to the preferences of the sponsors.

The new welcome beds on the Maynooth road and Confrey were nicely planted. We see that you are following advice of judges and planting directly into the ground for sustainability and better use of resources. We saw your new rockery at Gallivan's Cross and it looks like it will mature nicely. The beds at the wildflower meadow opposite the Garda station were maturing nicely. Congratulations to you and Kildare County Council for planting new bee-friendly beds. If we all do a little it can help to protect our bees and other pollinators.

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

You are doing well when you state your work has raised awareness of environmental issues. This is heartening and we all gain more from the enthusiasm shown by the rising generation which is really committed to bringing about essential reforms in our everyday lifestyles. Good expressions of pollinator-friendly sites turned up. One remarkable example was at the public car park on Captain's Hill. At the south-facing hedgerow growing along the boundary we counted over thirty bees (mostly bumblebees) foraging.

We see you are maintaining several projects including the biodiversity area by the Rye River, the community orchard, biodiversity at Intel, the Royal Canal, bird boxes, the bat study and the five-star insect hotel, among others. You also mention your new project, the Cycle Greenway, along the Royal Canal from Dee Bridge to Collinstown bridge and your involvement in Heritage Week. All of these are admirable undertakings.

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

We saw the recycling facility at the Lidl supermarket. It was sensibly located to the rear of the car park, backing onto the perimeter hedgerow. However, we were disappointed to find a smattering of rubbish including plastic bags of waste and a clump of rotten vegetables. The Royal Canal boat trips look like great fun. We applaud the use of the canoe to remove debris from the canal.

The continued liaison with the schools is a wonderful undertaking. You are very lucky to have your own Certified Cool Planet Champion Louise call, as you say she is a fountain of information on climate change.

Well done on having your electric car charging point installed and we are sure you will find the need to increase these in the future. Your attendance at a climate action workshop is also praised. Congratulations to the three transition year students from Coláiste Chiaráin in entering Junk Kouture this year. The creation titled Mielikki named after the Goddess of Forests is stunning. We again commend the recycled seat at Rye Riverwalk and the children's benches at the wildflower meadow. Your Slí na Sláinte signs are attractive and a great idea. We also liked your roadside library idea. We visited a few of your charity shops on the day. They are a great way for recycling and reusing clothes, books and bric a brac.

You also mention your WEEE collection, litter segregation, battery recycling and sick of plastic day, all of which are great initiatives which benefit the whole community.

We particularly like the fact that LTTA activities are almost paper-free and we are delighted that Leixlip have set up a Men's Shed this year at the Amenities Centre. We have seen around the country what a positive influence these can have.

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

Leixlip was very busy on adjudication day. However, we are pleased to say that for the most part it was litter-free. You have taken on board previous years adjudicators comments and addressed areas of untidiness. Your work on the gates at the old ESB shop was well executed. The sign on the Rye bridge was nicely repainted. Your work at the collector's house on the canal was eye catching. We commiserate with you in your battle against the so-called

graffiti artists. This is a time-consuming activity and we praise you for keeping up your efforts. The decorative pump was nicely maintained. Well done on power washing the Liffey bridge on an annual basis.

You have a large area to maintain both rural and urban and you are doing a good job on both fronts. Well done to all involved.

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

The new estate as Westfield has a very smart entrance. There was nice planting at Beech Park. Glen Easton is extremely well-kept with impressive verge trees and lovely open areas. It is quite an extensive estate and it is well coordinated, with a consistently high standard of open space enhanced with wise planting. For us, it represents a good expression of the Garden City layout, combining the best of the urban and the rural. Clearly, it works because we saw plenty of birds flying about.

The entrance to Loughnamona was well maintained. Castletown estate is nicely kept and we enjoyed the colourful painted bins and electric outlets.

Ryevale Lawn estate is a marvellous development with a wonderful sylvan feel to it. The scale of the open space is such that it allows large trees to grow, like the copper beech. This, in turn, will bring in a bigger variety of birds and insect life. The planting of the beds here by the residents was outstanding,

The terraced housing on the north side of Main Street forms an elegant centrepiece in displaying both classical harmony and elegant consistency.

The entrance to Avondale with its sustainable planting around its main name stone was admired. The sculpture as Easton Meadows was praised. Elton Court had a fine display of flowers at its entrance.

Leixlip is lucky to have such a high standard of housing and it is obvious that the residents take great care of their environment. Well done to all involved.

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

The roadside verges on the way in from Kilmacreddock deserve to be cut back. The new sign at Easton Road was very attractive. The road verges near Hewlett Packard deserve cutting. We were enchanted by the two memorial seats opposite Ryevale Lawns and the mobile library. We also noted the beautifully painted transformer boxes, which are a work of art in their own right. Congratulations to your resident artist.

The road out to Confey is well maintained and weed-free. The road running by Confey cemetery was newly surfaced and marked, and it looked very well. Your work on Sammy's Lane was praised.

You cover a lot of ground in your maintenance of access roads and lanes and you are keeping up a high standard.

Tá Léim an Bhradáin ag fás go mear agus tá sibhse ag coimeád suas leis an bhforbairt. Is iontach an rud é sin a fheiscint.

### **Concluding Remarks:**