

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardara** Ref: **161**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **248**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	40	41
Streetscape & Public Places	50	32	33
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	30	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	18	18
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	11
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26	27
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>248</b>

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

Welcome Ardara Tidy Towns to the 2018 Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry was very much appreciated. Thank you for your entry form, map and photos of flowers. Your population is 980 putting you in Category B Village. You have a committee of 30 members and 20 volunteers. The size of your committee tells us that all sectors of your community are represented on it. You plan to have 10 meetings a year. Your supporters are all local. Do you get support from Donegal County Council, TUS or any other source?

Your 2 channels of communication are text and Facebook. You engage well with your school. When we asked you if you had a specific project that required particular effort you nominated the children of Crannbui National School and their programme to collect litter. You are ten years in the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. We look forward to you entering for another 10 years as least. You actively invite all groups to your meetings to develop awareness. Also, the GAA club has joined the Ardara Tidy Towns group for the first time.

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

The Diamond is the centre of Ardara and it, in turn, has a centre piece. It is a sculpture of John Doherty, fiddler on the road, which stands on a tall base. It stands on a large circular stone base. The Diamond has clean, black bollards and red and black seats. The litter bin is clean. There are visitor information boards setting out cycle routes. There are also flowers and trees which are moved to the next category – Green Spaces. Any village or town would enjoy its own Diamond.

Another information board shows a map of the Puqvesta Santa Anna Drive. The river walk is an excellent amenity with picnic tables, landscaping in large stone beds, trees, neat grass, children's playground, clean litter bins and two information display cases. The Ardara Community Childcare Centre is a big, colourful building with an enclosed screened area with lots of happy sounds coming from it.

Chas. McHugh and Paul McHugh must be related. Their twin residences/shop in black and white stand out. So does the flower pot. A blue and gold village tap needs freshening. The Nesbitt Arms Hotel looks very well. Two adjoining premises are well painted – The Skin Buff and Physio Eireann. Irish names that caught the eye include Tadgh O'Breislran with its two brown doors, An Buisteir Siopa Gruaige. A painting of a river and mountain scene has a title "Welcome to Ardara Contact: [www.ardara.ie](http://www.ardara.ie)". A two storey building with dormer windows in black and white and has its other windows filled in with colourful crests and other illustrations. There are 2 plaques, one on each of the bridge walls "Ardara Best Village to live in Ireland".

Well done on having lighting installed on 5km of a village walk. A very good amenity. The GAA complex looks well.



They have extensive grounds which are out of sight. Its lights showed this adjudicator the way. Thanks. Wood School 2000 is well painted, as are its boundary walls. School garden glimpsed at a gable end. A blue and white display cabinet with a Madonna was erected by Ardara school children and Canon Boyce PP in 1957. Two flower containers at its base.

The Church of Ireland is imposing at the top of the hill. Church and grounds well presented. The Methodist Church and Methodist Hall 1995 are both well presented. Car park neat and tidy. Trees, flowers and grass are well tended. The Church of the Holy Family is an impressive large building which looks very well. Its bell stands apart on its own structure. The grounds, including the graveyard, are neat and tidy.

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

Well done to the team of 3 people who focus on the flower beds at the Diamond and at the car park. The outcome of their efforts is very good. The Diamond is the centre of the village and it looks very well. There is a long flower bed with lots of colour. Ornate black street lamps have 2 hanging baskets each. The trees also look well with flowers at their base. The bridge has colourful hanging baskets. The car park has both ordinary beds and large, raised stone beds and they have a colourful display of flowers and shrubs for year-round effect. The grass areas are all neatly trimmed. Well done to all involved.

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

Your entry form spoke so highly of St John's Pier that this adjudicator put it near the top of "must see" features. Alas, the road was being resurfaced and there were long delays in both directions. In short, the pier was inaccessible in the time available. However, it gave this adjudicator time to look around and conclude that Ardara is fortunate to have so many different habitats that you have the ingredients for projects in this category.

When the tar sprayer is not blocking the road you have access to the foreshore at low tide. An information board showing the sea birds and wildlife would be useful. Later, walking along the river walk the ducks were actively looking to be fed. An information board on the river walk would be appreciated. Three maps were seen that illustrated walks – Loughros Point Walk, Ard Clougher – Moagh Walk and an older one that is not very clear Cromkeeran Walk.

### **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. You work closely with your waste removal company. You identify those who burn their waste and explain to them that burning is no longer allowed and that they should use the approved system. Donegal County Council arranges talks on this topic and you should ensure that your representative attends. Contact their Environmental Officer for more details. Other Tidy Towns groups have found these talks very useful. Also, please consult [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) for more information on this topic.

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

Beside the bridge outside Josephine's an old village water tap is leaning against a wooden ESB pole. It badly needs attention. Josephine must be mortified to have a scruffy piece of street furniture outside her premises. Unused broken wooden uprights should be removed at the junction of the Killybegs Road and L2873 – Mogumna. You have a daily litter patrol by 2 people who walk as far out as the speed limit signs at the edge of the village litter picking. Their patrol is effective because there was very little litter seen on adjudication day. Key areas were without litter – at the "Welcome" stones at the edge of the village, the Diamond and the river walk and car park. You also arrange to talk to the school children about litter and you also brief the Ardara Traders Association on the need not to clutter footpaths. The seats in the Diamond need their paint work touched up.

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

This category is as important as each of the other categories and you can help the adjudicator ensure that residential estates are given due attention. The text setting out our requirements for this category includes the following "Where possible individual estates should have suitable name signs". You can assist the adjudicator by showing the location of each residential estate on your map, give it a number and tell us the name of the estate in your entry form. Otherwise an estate may be missed by the adjudicator.

The text also says that "Unfinished estates will not reflect badly on the efforts of any community". Ard Connell is a mature neighbourhood and all residences look well. It has a bi-lingual metal name sign on long legs in the grass. The grass is neatly trimmed. Drumaghy Park is also a mature neighbourhood. It has a black and white name sign at the entrance. Houses have different architectural styles. All look well. Kerbed extensive grass area is neatly cut. Seat on the grass.

Ard na Greine has name stones flanking the entrance. Well painted colourful residences. Grassed areas well kept. Minor flaws to road surface. Drumbarron House, just off the Diamond, has window boxes at each window. There are individual residences in and around the village that are well maintained.

**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 village or town. Your entry form tells us that you put great emphasis on maintaining the flower beds on the approach roads with the "Welcome" signs. The approach from Narin/Portnoo has a bi-lingual village name sign with flowers at its base. Straight stretch of road with no footpaths. Good first impression.

The approach from Glenties has the brown and white Heritage Town sign first. No flowers in the raised bed. Next came the bi-lingual village name stone with flowers. The Killybegs approach has the name stone with "Home of the Festivals" on it. There is also a green and white metal sign, bi-lingual on long legs. Close to a bad corner. Average impact.

**Concluding Remarks:**

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