

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Skibbereen - An Sciobairín** Ref: **693**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **331**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **11/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	47	48
Streetscape & Public Places	60	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	43	44
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	37	38
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	21	22
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	39
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>331</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh (Skibbereen) - (An Sciobairín) páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Thank you for your application, map and copy of your plan. Skibbereen is a very attractive busy town with a mix of heritage and modern buildings all adding their own charm to the streetscape. Your committee of seven with a number of volunteers are working together to enhance and develop the village with various projects. Meetings are held regularly and there is great interaction with the agencies and the businesses of the town. Without their co-operation through funding and other assistance it would be difficult to carry out a lot of the good work you are doing, which is noticeable in the town. You have a good communication system in place to the wider community through social media and newsletters. The schools and committee work closely together with different environmental projects through organising poster competitions to highlight different awareness events and also events such as clean-ups and tree planting events. You are fortunate to have workers assigned to the town who help with maintenance and projects on a daily basis. The town has been involved in the competition for a good number of years and are pleased with the results they have achieved over the years. It has resulted in a better pride of place in the town with the community and all groups working closely to ensure the town is maintained, making it a better cleaner town for people to live in and visitors to visit.

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

The well presented roundabouts leading to brightly coloured buildings with colourful murals noted at different locations, gives a very good first impression as one enters the town. There is a mix of heritage and modern buildings all adding their own charm to the streetscape of the town. St Patricks Cathedral is a fine architectural building with attractive stained glass windows. The Library was also noted and admired. Skibbereen is fortunate to have a number of good schools available to the children of the town and surrounding areas. These schools have their own individual uniqueness. Good landscaping was noted along railings at entrance to schools. The Garda Station was also admired with good mature trees noted in this area. The Grotto looked bright and colourful. Stream Mill Quay Is a well preserved Heritage building. The heritage centre where the Great Famine Story exhibition can be viewed was also visited. Splendid landscaping was admired in the grounds at the entrance. The buildings that have been given a facelift, the former Plough Bar and Draper Opticians were looking good. The graveyard on Chapel lane needs attention. The walking tours through the town starting at the heritage are also a great tourist attraction and a good way of viewing the buildings along the streetscapes.

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

Landscaping is of a high quality throughout the town starting with the well landscaped roundabouts with a good mix

of vibrant planting. More excellent planting was noted at the heritage centre and on the railings at entrance to schools. The Old Forge Anvil Garden was noted and it is good that the heritage of the town is retained and not forgotten. The hard landscaping of the monument at the car park was complemented by superb planting. The businesses of the town have done good work landscaping the grounds of the car parks with trees and all year round seasonal planting. This is a good help to the committee to have these landscaped areas sponsored.

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

Groups are encouraged to host talks and walks to celebrate and embrace the natural habitats and wildlife species that are in their locality. This you are doing with the facilitated workshop on horticulture. There was also a workshop with Birdwatch Ireland on Swifts and their habitats. There was a photo display of wildlife at the River Ilen which was admired. There is also the Skibbereen Walking festival that takes walkers around the town and also out of the area. You have also completed a lot of planting that will encourage wildlife. The schools have planted wild flower seeds in the grounds of the schools. A stretch of roadside from the Aldi entrance has been turned into a pollinator corridor with the assistance of number of groups. There are also numerous wildflower meadows sown at different locations around the town. The Mills pollinator area was also noted. Part of the local walking tours through the town could be used to carry out a survey on some of the species that visit these new planting areas and document your findings. The schools can do likewise with the planting in the school grounds. There is certainly no shortage of natural habitats that could be explored.

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

This category is about reducing the amount of waste that is produced by the community. It is also about better management of resources. You are doing good work in this area. Recycling is ongoing with most groups. Composting and harvesting of rainwater is also adopted by many groups and is also used by the wider community. Growing vegetables and seeds reduces packaging and air miles. Compostable bags for fruit and vegetables is commended so too is encouraging people to bring reusable coffee cups by giving them discounted. The facilitating of free tap water given free for people with reusable bottles is also commended. You have also attended a workshop on food waste which is good as food could be one way of reducing waste by buying less, which would reduce packaging and waste. Have you carried out any survey on the amount of waste that is going to landfill from the town each week? Take a number of houses over a four week period and monitor the waste and see if it is reducing. If not look at measures that could help reduce the waste. You are doing good work in this category to help reduce waste so let's hope that it is happening.

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

You take part in the Council Anti-litter challenge which aims to reduce litter across towns and villages. You are doing well in this challenge. You also have the annual clean up where you state over fifty bags of rubbish were collected. Have you noticed a decrease in the number of bags at the annual clean up, as it shows if this is happening that your plan on eradicating litter is working? It also shows that people are getting more aware and are not littering. You have many novel ways of creating awareness and getting more people involved which is commended. The Dog Poop poster competition which resulted in superb entries is a novel way of creating awareness. Let's hope that dog owners take note and clean up after their pets. The town was generally neat and tidy on adjudication day with a few areas needing attention. There was grass growth at entrance to the Heritage centre. There is also a rusty light pole on the bridge that needs attention. Down from O'Briens there is also a barrel with rusty signs. Do try and avoid the use of herbicides if possible. Signage needs cleaning.

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

Well done on your work in this category. There is good interaction with the residents helping each other to maintain their homes and areas. Giving support with hanging baskets and window boxes is encouraging people to get involved. It is also good to see the children involved. The estates visited were well presented with good green areas and landscaping. Planting for pollinators was also noted. The homes were all well presented. Along the approach roads and throughout the town was the same. Houses had well painted facades with good floral displays brightening up the streetscape. The old stock houses of the town were particularly admired. Well done to the committee and residents for the work in this category presenting their homes and surroundings to such a high standard. The playground is also bright and colourful, a superb amenity for the community.

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

The approach roads to Skibbereen were bright and welcoming with good, well maintained roundabouts. Verges were also well presented, neat but also leaving a corridor for wildlife. As stated previous do refrain from the use of herbicide as it looks untidy. It is good that the businesses are helping with planting through sponsorship. The flood relief works are welcome. The bright murals located at different locations looked bright, welcoming, and unique to Skibbereen. Road surfaces in places are uneven but this is being addressed.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Skibbereen was a pleasure to visit on a first visit for this year's adjudicator. You are commended on the work you are doing enhancing the town while retaining its heritage and its uniqueness. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.

