

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue - An Bóthar Buí** Ref: **95**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **286**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	60	38	39
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	42	43
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	22	23
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	15	16
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	37
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>286</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Boherbue – An Bóthar Buí páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for your application, map and photos. The application was well-written and illustrated with photos but please try to be a bit more concise next year and follow the directions in the form. It would help if the projects/activities were numbered in the application form and the same numbers used on the map. The map was good but a little unwieldy as it was so big. Some places mentioned in the form weren't shown on the map (as far as I could see) e.g. Millennium Park and Hearse House. Some of the projects listed as new (N) in the application form weren't listed on the map under 'Boherbue Tidy Towns work since June 2018' so I was a bit confused e.g. painting of community hall and handball alley. What is clear though is that you have been busy and the village is looking very well.

You have a large committee of 22 and 25-30 volunteers to help out. Many groups would be very envious of these numbers! You are supported by a large number of groups, organisations and businesses in your work including the schools and youth groups which is great. You use a range of methods to communicate with your community which is the most effective approach. You believe that the work of your group contributes to pride of place, which is very evident on visiting the village.

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

I can't possibly mention all the projects listed under this category in your application form. I will focus on a selection but I have noted all the projects included in the form and on the map. Boherbue has a lovely village centre town houses in good condition and well-presented premises. The garda station looks particularly well, complemented by the lovely planting. The community hall also looks well although it appeared a bit cluttered out front in my opinion with the mix of planters and poles etc. The church is a striking building and the flowerbed with roses and shrubs out front look very well. The services post in the middle of the bed had two signs nailed to it which detracted a bit from the nice floral display. The handball alley is freshly painted. The schools are all well-presented. The comprehensive school has well-kept grounds with nice hedging, shrubberies and green space along the road frontage. Street furniture looks well in general especially the seating in sage green. The mass path signage is lovely and interesting. The bilingual signage on the signpost in the Square is attractive but this area is now quite cluttered with the new and old signage. Perhaps you can discuss a solution with the Area Engineer in the council. The children's playground is a fantastic amenity.

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

Boherbue has many beautifully landscaped areas in and around the village centre. I liked the natural style of the Hearse House Garden. The flowers aren't all native 'wildflowers' but they are lovely and most are beneficial for

pollinators. You are lucky to have a dedicated and hardworking TÚS worker who has made a big impact on McAuliffe Avenue and Vaughan's Terrace green spaces and flower beds, which look very well. The large flowerbed and shrubbery in front of the Garden Station is a great focal point in the village centre. The planters on the wall were nice too. The planting on the traffic island doesn't make as much of an impact, in my opinion, possibly because of the mix of planting. The area looks too busy with the mix of planting, planter, pump, flag pole, directional signage and bi-lingual signage I thought the lavender bed looked very well. Perhaps expand the permanent and pollinator-friendly planting to replace the summer bedding here and aim for just one or two colours in the planting. The stand of trees in front of the Beeches is a nice landscape feature and provides a habitat for wildlife. I would recommend leaving this area to develop naturally without any further thinning or pruning. The St. John's Wort hedge across from the Comprehensive School was flowering profusely on adjudication day and looked great. Newly planted trees at the church are staked too high. The large bed by the Handball Alley looked well after gardening works. The shrubberies across from the Boherbue Educare Centre look great. The old wildlife signage is nice and informative but could be updated.

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

We don't need a summary of the problems facing global biodiversity here although it's great to read that you are well aware of the main issues. I noted a few pollinator-friendly plants in your planting schemes throughout the village. It's good to read you are mindful of hedgerow cutting and leaving areas of grassland unmown for the benefit of pollinators. You also cleared some ground for nesting bees. Well done to Mary Murphy for setting up the herb garden at McAuliffe Avenue and using seeds from her own garden. You have erected bird boxes around the village. I do hope they weren't nailed to the trees as this can impact on tree health. Do try to determine if the nesting boxes were used and if they were clear out the nesting material at the end of the bird nesting season. You also have built a few bug hotels. It's good to read that you are hoping to work with IRD Dulhallow on a biodiversity project. A study of nature and wildlife in and around Boherbue is a great idea. Hopefully it will give you some ideas of potential projects and will raise awareness of local biodiversity. A biodiversity plan that is developed in collaboration with the local community would be of help to guide your work going forward. See <https://pollinators.ie/communities/> for ideas for new projects/ activities in this category. I would be interested to learn more about the reed bed system in the village and an interpretive board is a good idea.

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

Again a summary of environmental issues isn't required here. I'm glad to read that you made contact with SEAI and Conor O'Brien from SEAI attended one of your meetings. It's great to hear that you plan to become a Sustainable Energy Community. You have plans to develop a community master plan for the village in relation to energy, to conduct an energy audit and to hold a free LED bulb day in September. You re-use materials in your work (e.g. making planters) and propagate plants to avoid having to purchase too many new flowers. You have a book club for exchanging books and car-pooling system. A new water butt was installed in the Garda barracks for use in watering your planting schemes. It would be good to monitor how much is used and how much you need to increase your capacity in order to be able to water all planting using rainwater. Your new community garden is a great initiative and it's a good idea to set up a composting unit. The composting workshop will help the community to increase and improve the amount of waste composted. I was very interested to hear about the Reed Bed waste treatment system for the village run by Irish Water. As I said above, an information panel is a good idea. I agree that the recycling centre in Coolagown is a good model for your recycling facilities. The aim is to be to make it easy and efficient for everyone to recycle, and to discourage dumping. See <https://voiceireland.org/perch/resources/admin/zero-waste-community-toolkit-final1.pdf> for ideas on how to reduce waste.

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

Some of the projects/actions included here should be described in other categories e.g. landscaping and residential areas. Overall Boherbue was spotless on adjudication day. Your big clean-ups and weekly litter patrols are making an impact. I didn't notice a big problem with weed growth so I assume some progress has been made in this area since last year. There is little clutter on the streets or fly-posting. The retail area with Supervalu etc. is, however, a little cluttered out front. While the buildings are generally well-kept, a fresh coat of paint would help in places and a coordinated painting scheme for the whole complex. It's good to read that you participate in the Cork County Anti-Litter Challenge, which is a great way to keep motivated in terms of litter control.

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

There are many well-painted town houses in the village centre, some with nice floral displays. There are also several nicely presented individual houses and residential areas. It's great to read how closely the Tidy Towns group work with local residents and residential groups. It's good to read that you succeeded in getting funding with McAuliffe Avenue residents' association for a new shed and equipment. The new flowerbed at the entrance looks great. The new Christmas lights were very popular I'm sure. The stand of trees at the entrance of The Beeches Estate are a lovely landscape feature. Well done to the residents for helping to clear out this area. New trees and hedging have enhanced this area. The green space in Vaughan's Terrace is being restored and the shrubbery and railway display look great. It sounds like there are future plans for this area in co-operation with the local residents.

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

The new footpath to the cemetery was the big project this year. I didn't have time to walk it but I drove out to the cemetery and noted other walkers enjoying the route. There were also two Tidy Towns members picking litter on a hot summer's day! I'm sure this will be a great amenity for the village. The build outs in the car parking area looked

lovely and are well-designed. Personally I would have preferred a native hedge to be planted along the route because it would be much more likely than beech to thrive and has a might higher value for wildlife. The overall effect of the new footpath and associated works is to provide an attractive gateway to the village. There has been considerable new planting and restoration of old beds on other approach roads (e.g. opposite Educare, McAulliffe Avenue and at Boherbue GAA club) that further enhances the approach roads. As I said before, the St. John's Wort hedge on the Newmarket Road looked lovely. You have numerous other new and maintenance works listed under this category, some of which overlap with other categories. The approach roads to Boherbue are in general very good, providing a lovely entrance to the village, while protecting and enhancing wildlife through tree and flower planting.

**Concluding Remarks:**

It was a delight to visit Boherbue on a lovely summers' day. You have done a lot of work since last year and I wish you all the best going forward.