

Milltown retains title of Tidiest Town in Co Galway

• Strong improvements in marks for many towns

By Slobhán Holliman

MILLTOWN has retained the title of Co Galway's Tidiest Town for 2018. The picturesque rural town pipped second place Abbey in South Galway by just a single point with the contest between communities proving to be exceptionally tight.

Overall the towns, villages and urban areas that enter the SuperValu TidyTowns competition in Co Galway have increased their marks over the past year, with several making a considerable impression on judges.

Some of the towns to record a significant increase in their marks include Headford (+11) and Tuam (+10) while Abbeyknockmoy, Ballymoe, Ballygar and Dunmore increased their overall mark by nine points each.

The top three positions in Co Galway remain very close with Milltown on 327, Abbey 326 and Monivea on 322. Towns such as Williamstown, Clarinbridge and Mountbellew are also past the 300 points mark

and making improvements every year.

Milltown continued to improve and picked up an extra four points, bringing it to a total of 327. Judges were impressed by the display of flowers in the village, the emphasis on traditional features and the upkeep of green spaces and landscaping.

The busy N17 and the level of traffic was again highlighted by the judges who acknowledged that traffic calming measures are out of the control of the Tidy Towns committee. Milltown's well-kept riverside walk was described as one of the best in the region.

Milltown was summed up as a village "so clean, so bright, so tidy and yet active and thriving".

Tuam's Tidy Town committee were commended by judges for securing such support and involvement from local businesses and the local schools. Tuam increased its overall mark to 291 with increased points in a number of areas. Judges were pleased to see work complete at the Mill Wheel and also praised the volunteers for their impressive rainwater harvesting efforts.

There are now over 100 businesses subscribing to the hanging basket scheme which was viewed as a great achieve-



ment. New signs regarding the biodiversity at the river were mentioned as was the new nature and heritage trail.

Judges did suggest further improvements be made in The Square where overhead wires and rusty chains were detracting from the nice public space.

The hard-working committee in Williamstown are delighted to see their overall mark increase again this year and huge efforts have been made locally to improve in a wide range of areas for the

Tidy Towns competition.

In their report the judges described Williamstown as a "clean and tidy village". It picked up extra marks in the areas of community, streets and lanes and nature and biodiversity. Judges were particularly impressed by the church in the village which together with rich landscaping "provides a great spectacle for the village".

Overall there were 45 entries from towns and villages around Co Galway as well as

an entry from Galway city in this year's TidyTowns compe-

tion with the national winner being Listowel in Co Kerry.

Local towns – how they scored

Monivea 322 (+5)	Mountbellew 302 (+4)
Williamstown 305 (+5)	Ballygar 296 (+9)
Caltra 301 (+7)	Dunmore 296 (+9)
Creggs 281 (+7)	Glenamaddy 283 (+8)
Glinsk 275 (+3)	Castleblakeney 282 (+7)
Newbridge 256 (+10)	Ahascragh 273 (+4)
Ballymoe 251 (+9)	Headford 255 (+11)
Kilkerrin 250	Claregalway 290 (+8)
Abbeyknockmoy 249 (+9)	Athenry 304 (+6)
Milltown 327 (+4)	Tuam 291 (+10)

ALL MOVED IN!



PAUL Quinn, Tuam Fire Station Officer with firefighters Joe Boyle, Declan Byrne, Paul Howard Taylor, Pete Kelly, Stephen Sheehy and Ger Brogan after they moved into Tuam's new Fire Station on the Milltown Road. PHOTO: RAY RYAN

Honorary degree from NUI Galway for Catherine Corless

RESEARCHER and campaigner Catherine Corless will be conferred with an honorary degree from NUI Galway for her work on the Tuam Mother and Baby Home.

The Browns Grove resident will be honoured by the university during the 2018 Autumn Conferring ceremonies.

Catherine has been chosen for her research into the former Tuam home and her advocacy work on behalf of the survivors of the home and the children who lost their lives.

Three others will be conferred with Honorary Degrees by NUI Galway - musician Sharon Shannon, Helen Rochford Brennan for campaigning for those with dementia, and biodiversity campaigner and

founder of Burren Beo Trust Brendan Dunford.

NUI Galway President Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh said each one of the honorary graduates has made an outstanding and distinctive contribution in their field.

"In honouring these exceptional individuals, we signal what we value in areas that matter to us and to our society - local history, disability rights, music and environmental sustainability. NUI Galway is very pleased to be in a position to recognise these exceptional individuals. Each of those we honour also have a special bond with our region - drawing on the unique experiences, strengths and challenges with which we as a University also engage - history, environment, social



NUI Galway will confer an honorary degree on Catherine Corless next month. PHOTO: RAY RYAN

policy and creative arts. On behalf of NUI Galway I am delighted to honour them and their achievements in this way."