

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cloneen** Ref: **557**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **274**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	50	34	35
Landscaping	50	35	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	38	38
Tidiness	30	19	19
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270	274

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 12 members and other volunteers are to be commended on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. You are obviously hard working and enthusiastic and you have many successful links with the local authority and other public bodies in the area, including FÁS as well as support from the community. We thank you for your detailed map which we found very useful, your book of photos and your three year plan. The slimathon is a novel way of raising money, we hope it bore fruit.

The Built Environment:

The thatched house near the old cemetery is a nice feature but it needs a lick of paint. The building opposite the Post Office needs cleaning; it has window boxes and plant containers. At the entrance to the Sports and Social Club there were information signs, flower containers and baskets. The church had flower boxes on the railings and was well painted. The millennium feature is developed to a good standard with an attractive stone wall, good paving and well planted container. The school has a green flag, and we noticed the baskets and window boxes. The GAA club and its surrounding wall were to a good standard and were complemented by the rose bed opposite. The red brick pump house has hanging baskets on the sides. The use of permanent wall/climbing plants would soften this building with less trouble. We noted your effort to screen the bring banks on the Drangan Road. The old pump is well maintained and the surrounds are generally clean and tidy. The old cemetery is a credit to you, a breach in the wall needs to be repaired. The cemetery wall was planted with Photinia and other plants which in time will help to hide part of the oil tank. We noted the resurfaced lane.

Landscaping:

The emphasis here should be on structural planting using trees, shrubs and perennial plants to help screen

undesirable views and to enhance other areas. Floral displays should be positioned in the village core to highlight its importance and help people to stop and smell the flowers. A highly visible significant size planting is better than a number of smaller ones. In that regard you have an ideal location for such a scheme at the junction of Fethard Road with Killusty Road where a footpath could be included in the design. There were beautiful displays of roses and herbaceous plants outside the well painted houses (front and rear) beside the old cemetery. We noted the rockery planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We visited the wildlife sanctuary and wish you good luck with its use and interpretation. Did you have any guests at the bat house under the bridge? We note that the hedge cutting operations are in compliance with the law. The wildlife signs are to a very good standard and very informative. The old Quarry beside the village is an opportunity for wildlife and nature studies.

Litter Control:

With some exceptions you have good control on litter. The Tidy School Committee in the local school should nip littering in the bud. Black plastic bags and litter were seen on the Killusty Road at the wildlife sanctuary. The rusty gate opposite the "Welcome" sign could do with a coat of paint.

Tidiness:

Your efforts in tidying the village and its surrounds are impressive. It was disappointing to see the Sports and Social Club Hall dirty with weeds and litter around it. Perhaps this can be a project for next year.

Waste Minimisation:

We noted that Cloneen National School students have planted their own vegetable plot and won their first green flag. This is a great initiative and one that will help them to understand how food is grown. The bottle and clothes bank facilities and compost heap activities are all appropriate measures under this section. The next stage is to determine the quantities of material being recycled in your community. It is good to have the cooperation of local shop and bar owners to recycle plastic cardboard, cans and glass. You picked a good year for water butts, they must be overflowing.

Residential Areas:

At the junction of Killusty and Fethard Roads there is a good wall and railing on a well painted house. Mountain View housing estate was visited. The ivy at the wall base looked well and will in time cover the wall. The hanging baskets are a nice feature. Consider grouping the smaller flower beds into one larger bed closer to the entrance for better impact. At the end of the estate we noted the trees planted against the steel palisade fence. The fence is being painted green so it is not too conspicuous. However, hedging plants such as Whitethorn, field maple or beech would establish better at this location and be less expensive. The same type of hedge could be planted against the fence surrounding the installation on the green. The trees already planted against the railing can be transplanted to positions elsewhere in the estate. We noted the beginning of a display being prepared on the green. Such a feature can be too labour intensive to build and maintain and it breaks up the size of the green. This effort would best be directed toward planting a hedge against the concrete wall to the side of the green.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Cloneen are very inviting. On the Killusty Road there is good grass maintenance and good standard trees. The stakes need to be removed from the ones at the entrance. A good stone wall, clean signs and flowers add to the favourable scene. We note that you have followed up on our suggestions last year to plant wall plants to help conceal the concrete wall. There are trees, shrubs and an inviting seat by the side of the Fethard Road. The old farm gates and wall on the Fethard Road are in need of attention. Footpaths from here to the village would not only be a safety feature they would enhance the area and help to reduce traffic speed. The vigorous growing Escallonia hedge on the left was partly covering one of the 50kph signs. Wall/climbing plants are suggested for the wall opposite.

General Impression:

Your achievements are plain for all to see. Sorry to learn of some incidents of vandalism. You are making good progress. We hope that this report helps you to plan for the next year.