

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Newcastle** Ref: **1037**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **261**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	50	30	30
Landscaping	50	33	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29	29
Litter Control	50	36	36
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34	35
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	257	261

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry to this year's TidyTowns competition. Your entry form, detailed map and a copy of your 3 year development plan are welcomed. Your committee of 12 and volunteers are doing great work to achieve the targets set out in your 3 year plan.

Your engagement with the Local Authority, the Schools and Local Businesses are to be applauded. The village has a range of interesting features and buildings and its situation so close to the sea gives scope for the development of Wildlife and Community amenities. The town has a great community feel. The adjudicator very much admired the community garden and bandstand area projects. Projects like these are a great way of involving the community members. Also the adjudicator understands that you are liaising with Birdwatch Ireland to develop a walk and wishes you every success with this project.

The Built Environment:

On entering the village adjudicator noted some very attractive walls leading to the Church of Ireland building with its well maintained graveyard. The Church Horse Mount in this area is a fine feature. The School was well maintained and adjudicator noticed its Green Flag flying. The Filling Station and shrub area looked very attractive. The Station House was nicely painted. The Community Centre, Community Garden and Playground all added to a great sense of a Community working well together. The Oratory (Holy Spirit) with its well maintained grounds was another nice feature. The Foroige 2010 commemorative stone and the Time Millennium Capsule all make the village well worth a visit.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village was very attractive. The newly planted native species hedge beside the playground was noted. Always plant native hedging as it will survive better in cold climates and be more

beneficial to wildlife. The pump area and planting was also noted. The shrub area at the Filling Station, the planting at Leamore Lane, hanging baskets and planters throughout the village all added a splash of colour. Do remember to plant all year round planting as much as possible, as this cuts down on costs to the community and is more beneficial for Wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Bio-diversity area beside the Oratory was a pleasure to visit and is a lovely amenity for the Community. The village is also home to another lovely amenity with Birdwatch Ireland. One could stroll in this area and listen to and sight many types of songbirds. The provision of a walk way from the village to the nature reserve would greatly enhance the area and should be encouraged. An information board of Wildlife in the area would also be informative for visitors as well as the Community. Having these amenities on your doorstep is a real asset to the area and the adjudicator would encourage you to develop this for Recreational and Educational purposes.

Litter Control:

Your approach to litter control, encouraging residents to adopt a stretch of road is an excellent project. Also the local Schools play an important part in clean up days at the Beach and clean up evenings in the Village. On the day of judging some litter was noted around the Church of Ireland and School. Perhaps more litter bins in this area where there is a large gathering of people would help.

Tidiness:

The Village has some untidiness that needs to be addressed. On the Traffic Islands there was weed growth and Bollards that need replacing. At the G.A.A grounds, grass growth at the gate and the paling across could do with painting. The Bring Bank looked neat and tidy. Some of these areas can be addressed by Local Authority. These are minor problems and when addressed will improve the appearance of the Village.

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator noted from your 3 year plan that you intend to continue awareness in this category through your Newsletter and website. In this category it is important to work with the Schools through their involvement in the Green Flag. The purpose here is to reduce the amount of waste produced in the Community. The Race against Waste booklet from the Tidy Towns unit has some useful and helpful guidelines on how to carry out a waste audit. The Committee could compost leaves and grass and reuse in flowerbeds. Circulate waste minimisation literature to homes via your Newsletter and Website, also use the Schools to educate people in the Community on how to reduce waste. I would also encourage the Community to join the Greener Homes scheme.

Residential Areas:

The village has some superb stone walls and some very well maintained and presented estates with goods landscaping. There are some beautiful Houses across from the Pump area with well maintained gardens. Your treatment of unoccupied Houses and Gardens is admired. The Community Garden and Bandstand is a superb project to develop further for the community involvement.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the Village are very well maintained with some fine stone walls. The verges are neatly trimmed. We must remind entrants in this category that the cutting of Hedges is not allowed from the 01st March to the 31st August. Around the Foroige Stone 2010 there were some well presented and maintained Bollards. There were however some boundary walls and gates that were in need of painting.

General Impression:

The Village has some fine features in its Built Environment and Natural Amenities and is a pleasant village to visit. The committee are hard working and focussed on the targets it set out to achieve. The adjudicator wishes you every success this year and for the coming years.