

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Gathabawn** Ref: **380**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **207**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>207</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Gathabawn is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your submission, we note the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to formulate one as it will guide your path through the competition. Gathabawn is hidden away off the main roads of Kilkenny against a backdrop of beautiful low hills. The village appears as almost an oasis away from the noise of traffic. We note from your submission that the committee organises public meetings and uses the facilities of notices to communicate Tidy Towns initiatives. Well done also on your interaction with your local authority and the Leader organisation. Your work in partnership with Green Hills National School sounds interesting and of course is an investment in the future of Gathabawn.

### **The Built Environment:**

We wish you well on the development of your Community Neighbourhood Park and on the National School project. Stonework around the village was admired; and no doubt existing building projects will enhance the built environment of Gathabawn, as they are complete and mature. The shop is an attractive building but its closed end canopy should be replaced with a straight edged open ended canopy; Mackey's Bar & Lounge is attractive also, however its forecourt is in need of resurfacing. The church building looks a little weather stained and a few walls/outbuildings could be cleaned or painted and replastered where necessary or it could be planted with a climbing plant.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaped area in the village centre looked superb with its attractive seating and the lovely area to a field across from the church was admired also. The environs of Carey's Forge site have high visual amenity status. Do keep us informed of your progress with the Community Neighbour Woodlands Project.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The hedgerow which lines the Hill Road Boisin na gLoch no doubt provides habitat for the variety of wildlife species. We note from your submission that you have developed local amenity walks and we would like additional information as this could increase your mark under this heading. Your planned work projects are noted and we wish you well in bringing these to completion, again we urge you to provide us with details of your progress.

**Litter Control:**

Gathabawn was litter free at the time of adjudication well done on this achievement. You should keep us informed of your litter control activities as these can also be a source of additional marks and we can use the information to help other committees to achieve similar standards for their village. Your submission indicate that you engage in litter clean ups however there are no details of frequency and how this is organised you also refer to the National Tidy Campaign however your involvement/ participation is not described.

**Waste Minimisation:**

To compete successfully under this heading it will be necessary to be creating in identifying ways in which the community as a whole can minimise waste it produces rather than simply collecting for recycling. An important first step in this respect would be to ask the various sectors of the community, e.g. business interests, the school, farming interests, and residents, to survey the amount of litter produced by themselves and look for ways to reduce the amount produced in different ways. We note your ongoing work with local business interests and again would like more information.

**Tidiness:**

A site located beside the 50km speed limit sign located up the hill identified as Boisin na gLoch looked untidy. Your submission indicates a general and regular weeding programme however again no details are provided and in this instance this type of detail can improve your marks. Gathabawn was weed free in its central areas on the day of inspection.

**Residential Areas:**

Work in progress for the construction of a new dwelling; it is suggested that the roadside area to the boundary wall here and another dwelling in the course of being refurbished should receive appropriate treatment also. The majority of dwellings in the village centre are well maintained and many were admired. We note from your application that the Tidy Towns committee works to encourage residents to become involved in the presentation of the village; we anticipate that new residents will be welcomed in to the community and brought on board the Tidy Towns initiative.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The footpath in the centre of the village was beautifully surfaced and weed free; road surfaces in the village centre was good also. A lovely stone wall out the road by the church together with boundary fencing and garden was also admired. One approach road was neatly trimmed to its roadside margins at the time of adjudication whilst others were left more natural; if liked the outside of the grass margin to the roadside edge could be maintained and neatly trimmed with the inner edge left to display stands of wild flower and wild grasses thus providing additional wildlife habitats. well done on your activities regarding hedge and roadside maintenance. The overhead wirescape in the village centre looked quite bad and the service pole itself was a bit of an eyesore; hopefully the service cables can be ducted at some stage in the future and the service poles removed.

**General Impression:**

Gathabawn is a charming village located in beautiful countryside and it is obvious that the residents have a deep commitment to their environment. We acknowledge that all work to date is done on a voluntary basis and that the constant problem is a lack of financial resources. We wish you well in your liaison with various agencies to make progress in the further the development in Gathabawn.