

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knocklong** Ref: **461**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **237**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	237

Overall Development Approach:

Knocklong is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your entry form and well executed map. Thank you also for the note about the pending work on the railway bridge. Note that you are supported by Limerick County Council, FAS, Ballyhoura Development, and also receive support from the community for your fund raising campaigns. We wish you continued success with your endeavours.

The Built Environment:

Major redevelopment work was ongoing on the railway bridge on the day of adjudication and was causing all kinds of disruption with detours via Elton and Emly, and the detour signage was very poor in the Elton area. The Church, grounds and adjoining cemetery were very well presented, as was the freshly painted School. Knocklong Sports Grounds and parking area was in good order, but the Community Centre is weather stained. Hopefully the ongoing problems of the fine old Station House and buildings, and the old Creamery yard will be resolved in time. The whole area around Walsh's Wholesale & Retail buildings is urgently in need of attention. Some of the business premises looked well, including Dooley's with their lovely planting by the fence; Harty's Nurseries; Quirk's, Meads, Molly Dawsons and Donovan's. It is noted that you have plans drawn up for the village in this category but that they have to be deferred because of work on the bridge.

Landscaping:

The tree plantings about the village looked well, as did the planting by the Grotto. The under planting at the sign on the Mitchelstown approach was good. Even though it is a nursery, one would have to comment favourably on the wonderful roses at Harty's. The paved and planted area by the pump on the hill was most attractive, as was the bed of valerian, hypericum, spirea, fuschia, monbretia – to name but a few. And the Boston Ivy is doing a good job of screening the old building and rusting roof. Your plans for upgrading planting at the Bring Bank area is noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village is set in a lovely natural wildlife habitat, and the Sli an Slainte Loop Walk is a fine walking route for both locals and visitors to enjoy. This adjudicator confesses to driving the Loop, but hopes to return with walking boots on next time. The Hill area is indeed ripe for development in this category and we wish you well with your plans for this.

Litter Control:

Again this year litter control was good except for around the housing estate by Walsh's. Your diligence in organizing clean up days is working and well done to those involved, and well done for involving the children in this activity. Your plan to replace all the old litter bins is noted.

Waste Minimisation:

You mention the Limerick County Council provide pickers and bin bags and the collection of same, but it is the segregation and recycling of same that is important. As this is a new category for 2006, your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes and the participation of the School in the Green Schools' initiative, etc. You have a Bring Bank, so some recycling takes place in the village. The Environmental Section of Limerick County Council may also provide some useful information.

Tidiness:

Because of the diversions, the Council had been very busy hedge trimming on all the approach roads about the village. Some weed control is needed by the Bring Bank. The area around the Horseshoe Inn gives a very poor impression as one arrives in the village, as do the old creamery and railways buildings mentioned above. Please discourage the dumping of garden refuse by the entrance to the Bring Bank area

Residential Areas:

The Curraheen cottages are a credit to their owners. The terrace of houses by the Sports complex is well maintained, as is the attractive stone terrace. There are many lovely private dwellings about the village and many are maintained to a high standard, and some with lovely mature gardens. The standard of houses varies in the Housing Estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were good, but where the resurfacing had taken place loose gravel was all about. The new pavement from the Sports Complex to Quirks was noted, and hopefully you will receive permission from the land owner to plant trees inside the fence. All the signage to the village was in good order. Good luck with your entry for the Golden Mile Competition. And the new bridge, with decorative lighting, will be a great asset to the village when complete.

General Impression:

The view from the Hill down to the village and across to the Galtees and to the ruins of the O'Hurly Castle, is great. The committee is obviously working hard, negotiating with many, to improve the village for all to enjoy. The draft Ballyhoura Landscape Architecture Initiative has many plans for Knocklong, and we look forward to seeing their progression.