

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bridgetown** Ref: **61**
County: **Clare** Mark: **221**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your excellent application and map of the village and its surrounds.
The make up of your committee and sub group is ideal for a village the size of Bridgetown.
I appreciate your comments re not everybody being not engaged by Tidy Towns.
That said you must have some very positive influence with the vast majority of the Community, as the Village looked very well on the day and this not just happen of its own accord.
Keep up the effective management approach that you have in place at the moment.

The Built Environment:

The presentation standard of all buildings public, retail and private was very good, and those responsible are to be commended.
Even the new developments taking place are in keeping with the existing village structure.
On the negative side there are just a few items that need to be considered, the low boundary wall opposite the Graveyard is broken in places and needs to be re capped,also the Barn opposite the School could do with painting.

Landscaping:

While the green is the focal point of the Village and has some excellent planting features within it, there is a nice mix of hanging baskets,tubs and beds populated with busy lizzies and heathers around the remaining core area.
The Church Grounds deserve special mention as do the owners of 2 well appointed properties with excellent individual gardens.

Your comment about having a green area for kids to play on is taken on board and I would agree with you in making this decision.
After all village green areas are about kids enlivening places and playing football, soccer, hurling and no doubt rugby if you are in Munster.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Village has more natural wildlife habitats than most places its size and it is worthwhile exploiting this fact. Your idea of including more wild flowers is noteworthy and maybe the banks of the River near the bridge itself would be a starting point.
It might be worthwhile also in getting the schoolchildren involved in a project that could produce a Wildlife Notice Board on the Green

Litter Control:

Litter control was good particularly since it was the day after the week end.
It seems that the message of good litter control is being taken on board by the Community as a whole.
Keep spreading the gospel especially to the school children.

Waste Minimisation:

This is an area that the Committee could promote even further by examining the Race against Waste initiative and help organise Volunteer programmes that would be of practical benefit to the Community as whole.
For instance the local people could be encouraged to get involved in putting Residential Composting facilities in place.

Tidiness:

The Village has somewhat of advantage that it does not have a heavy throughput of traffic and therefore the verges, for the most part, were free from dust or residue.
There are a few areas that need attention most notably a few back areas and gates on the outskirts.
The Signs in general were presentable but it would be no harm to keep lobbying the local representatives to ensure that Clare County Council keep them maintained.
Your point about issues being outside your control is well made and taken on board.

Residential Areas:

Most of residential areas were very well presented with some excellently maintained gardens to be seen in these areas.
Residents of established areas such as Riverdale and the new small development across from Cooney's Pub deserve special mention for the manner in which they have maintained individual properties and communal areas.
Clonboy Estate was a little mixed not helped by the state of a few gardens and back areas.
I take on board your comments about your efforts being met with disdain -as per the Tayto Ad there always one or two in this case.
That said the encouragement and help given by the Committee has paid off as the overall standard was good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances from both Killaloe and Broadford were well presented as well as the link roads within the village.
I can empathise with you about the fate that befell the village in losing the old signs to vandals or more than likely mercenaries.
The verges were maintained in accordance with basic principles of wildlife conservation.

General Impression:

It was good to revisit Bridgetown after a number of years and see that so called progress has not overtaken it.
The Village is a tranquil place and long may that continue.
The efforts of Committee in fostering goodwill and encouragement are paying off.
You can rest assured that people will come on board when they see that a sense of community is important as families become established and grow up together.

Keep up the good work.