

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clonbur** Ref: **193**
County: **Galway** Mark: **244**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Your submission was most comprehensive and reflects great forward planning. However, we would point out the advantage of filling in the new official form issued in 2006 for the first time as it takes you step by step over the various categories. We would welcome an improved street map also, although the numbers keyed into the various locations proved very helpful. We commend your year-round activity and your ability to fundraise. The village was judged on one of the hottest days in July with temperatures reaching 30 degrees. Parts of the village were a blaze of colour and large numbers of window boxes, hanging baskets and other containers combined to make the village colourful overall, so well done.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned last year the church and adjacent Health Centre were much admired. We notice planning permission being sought for development of the latter and we hope any new buildings or extension will respect the existing architecture of this building. An excellent view of this building is available from the raised landscaping at the rear of the church. The school was sporting the Green Flag which is a delightful sight for any adjudicator. The Community Centre excels in appearance and is richly landscaped. Buildings praised last year looked well again this year. Many premises were freshly painted adding to the flower colour of the village.

Landscaping:

You have worked hard on this category and the many areas with landscaping enhance your standard in this section. We liked the roadside treatment at the entrance to the Skellig Housing Estate. Approach roads were well presented and you also have a liberal amount of attractive wildflowers. The landscaped stone signs at the various approach roads are effective and welcoming to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your comments regarding this category and how busy you are in organising forest walks etc. We did have one disappointment at the entrance to the Coillte walk marked No. 1 on your map. Inside the metal barrier pole litter had been dumped in plastic bags and lay unattended. We note that much of this litter will be taken free at the Council's Recycling Centre, but this is of little help to your marks for this year. You have great potential for raising your marks under wildlife and we suggest you embark on a wildlife project for next year. No doubt Coillte will be glad to cooperate.

Litter Control:

We note your close liaison with the litter warden and with Galway Co. Council. Last year's adjudication also alluded to litter problems and to dumping at Clonbur Wood. The new location for the Bring Bank unit seems beneficial as it was well presented on adjudication day, although the fingerpost sign at the cross was pointing the wrong way. We found a small portion of litter at the car parking area opposite the school.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category and one which has potential for you to earn extra marks in this category. You have made a good start with the Green Flag at the school and this is acknowledged in your markings. Next year you might consider embarking on a community project aimed at waste minimisation as distinct from waste disposal.

Tidiness:

Your work at the cemetery is commendable and our visit to the western graveyard found it very well presented. Your pockets of untidiness stem from unfinished stone walls and some buildings sites.

Residential Areas:

We liked the residential areas inspected and many have well presented gardens. The village renewal work mentioned in your submission is praiseworthy and will further enhance with the passing of time. Well done on your lease arrangement from the Church of Ireland Authorities for the leasing of the church towards development of a Cultural Centre. We look forward to progress next year. At the Skellig Housing Estate we did notice some weed growth in the gutters. Also, the open space here would make an ideal amenity area for a rich display of landscaping: perhaps the community could tackle such a development for next year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have a serious problem with poor discipline of car parking. The village core is suffering from badly parked cars that seem to ignore the dangers of double parking and parking near bends. While the floral display at Tí Bhúrca looked bright on the old car, the reality is that this vehicle is parked all day and is an obstruction. Also, the placing of beer barrels on the footpaths shows scant respect for pedestrians negotiating a narrow footpath. We liked the undergrounding of cables and would urge the completion of this policy. The overview of the village from the west approach road offers sights of rear and back entrances, so you need to ensure these are well presented. On the village square we found the signage too cluttered. Also on this site there is no sign for Galway.

General Impression:

There is heartening evidence of good community spirit and your submission outlines your activities in great detail. Your challenge now is to finish the projects on hand and perhaps revisit many of previous year's developments. You have achieved a great deal and the proposals for the coming years will further enhance the village and strengthen your community spirit. Go nírí go geal libh.