

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roundstone** Ref: **319**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **233**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>233</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Firstly a warm welcome back to the competition after a year of absence and many thanks for filling out the application form and giving details of work done and future work planned along with the detailed map. It is welcoming to see that you are using a number of mediums to communicate with the local community; however we suggest that you also make use of the notice board that is in a prominent location on the main thoroughfare of the village. Your application does not mention a development plan, and we wonder has one been developed for the village?

### The Built Environment:

A significant number of commercial properties were well presented on the inspection day, some of the more outstanding are Wits End B&B, Roundstone House Hotel, Beola, Eldons Hotel, Yvonne Kings Art Gallery, Dalkey Design and Silas and O'Dowds (the smell of fresh paint evident!). These premises should be commended for their efforts. Both St. Mary's Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church looked well. The clean up and maintenance of the graveyard at St. Mary's is needed and will further enhance the church grounds. The Roman Catholic Church has a prominent location in the village and makes good use of this. The Balcony Restaurant is looking rather dishevelled and in immediate need of renovation as it is detracting from the lower part of the village.

### Landscaping:

The Roman Catholic Church has judicious planting of shrubs and trees. The colourful window boxes, tubs and floral adornments were favourably noted. The trees planted along the thoroughfare are a nice addition to the village street scene.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The release of pheasants into the wild has been noted and the plan to release grouse and partridge into the wild is welcomed. The location of Roundstone lends itself to a diversity of coastal wildlife. A number of other centres in the Galway region have educational display signs detailing local birds of interest, flora and local tide information etc. Once again, the notice board could detail such information and would make it more appealing to visitors.

#### **Litter Control:**

The only litter visible was litter around a number of overflowing bins on the Main Street area in front of the Roundstone House Hotel etc. This is unsightly and as detailed in your application form the application for additional bins may help alleviate this problem. The monthly beach clean-ups show a dedication to the improvement of the village and those residents undertaking in regular clean-ups should be praised.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Waste Minimisation is a new section of the competition that was introduced in 2006. It may be helpful for you to consult the guidance document produced by the Department entitled "How to win the Race against Waste in your Community" to allow you to gain more marks in this section next year. The Waste Awareness Officer of Galway County Council may also be a good starting point. Consider engaging with the local schools and businesses, how about holding a waste awareness day or adopting the local Bring Bank? The Bring Bank was noted to be in a clean and tidy state and therefore has gained you some marks this year.

#### **Tidiness:**

The adjudicator thought that the area around Michael Killeen Park could have been better presented given the number of tourists in the vicinity and given that Malachy's Bodhrans is one of the major tourist pulls in the village. The seating area around Malachy's could do with weeding. Furthermore the notice board detailing the history of the Franciscan Monastery and Roundstone musical instruments could be improved. These details that involve relatively little effort would allow the village to pick up more marks

#### **Residential Areas:**

Almost all the traditional street houses were well presented. The nicely painted three-storey building at the top of the village together with their flower boxes looked well. It is a pity that the building beside these and then across the round detract from the look of these. Another residential building beside the Beola restaurant is quite dilapidated and detracts from the village.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road and street surfaces were in good condition. The street lighting was admired and is in-keeping with the village. The majority of parking was generally on site and this hindered the flow of traffic. Cars parked in front of all the pretty commercial and residential properties also detract from the overall appearance of the village and a traffic management plan is needed.

#### **General Impression:**

It was this adjudicators' first visit to Roundstone and it certainly won't be the last. On the day we visited Roundstone the sun was out and the village was looking well. The village has a certain charm with its picturesque harbour and its setting in the backdrop of the Twelve Bens. The Roundstone Tidy Towns Committee should be pleased with their achievements and keep the momentum up for the competition in 2008.