

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Belmont** Ref: **522**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **230**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the excellent application with action plan and environmental education programme. Belmont has come on very well in the last few years with significant strides been made in the planning and organisation of the committee. It is important to update the plans and next year would be good to see a plan for the following 3 to 5 years. The handdrawn map had some inaccuracies which were confusing when trying to find key sites, so an improved map should be provided also.

### **The Built Environment:**

Overall it looks fine around the High St area. The church is a fine building, well painted, with ample space for a few planters to provide some colour. A few properties here are in need of a lick of paint. Primary school and paving across way could be fixed up with better markings for pedestrian walkways and crossings

Belmont is the main area, seems to be focused at the crossroads, and is a charming place. The cross has Kellys and sarges, all very neat and well presented – building across from sarges could be tidied up a bit.

The mill restoration work is looking very well. An interesting project which will be a credit to the area as it develops. There is opportunity to perhaps incorporate some heritage info/ history of the mill and turbines using energy of the river, and the canal alongside being used for transport.

There are machinery yards and numerous derelict buildings which hopefully will be improved by owners in future

### **Landscaping:**

Lovely landscaped area with wooden fencing at junction for Clonowny Castle and some beautiful landscaping

outside private residences. The water pump is in need of restoration

Mullaghatore is a marvellous. Some fine landscaping work has been done here. Previous landscaping project close by is coming on, and the birdboxes were noticed. The new area is an attractive feature on entrance to village from this side, highly visible as its placed on a corner.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There is a beautiful area beside canal. Parking on one side and walk and people fishing and lock the other side, lovely old house on other side. Lock house. It would be good to develop walking trails along the canal, looping around to clonowney castle, and back along river side. Information signs to be provided.

It is noted that wildlife talks have been held in schools and native trees planted

#### **Litter Control:**

There is no litter visible in the area so the on-going community clean-ups and awareness work with schools and youth groups is paying off. The environmental education programme and community awareness programme should continue to help keep Belmont and surrounding areas litter free

Is the school registered in An Taisce's Green School programme?

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is an excellent project to have 20 residents attend the composting workshop to then train others in the community. Segregating waste collected in clean-ups is also noted. The bottle banks are in good condition - are they being used by all residents? The info and awareness campaigns should continue to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle.

#### **Tidiness:**

Charming little place. Centre seems to focus on crossroads with sculpture and heritage info sign beside it. A little way up from the cross are recycling bins – good condition – no litter and wooden surround and litter bin provided there. All fine – good parking. Larrys old time village up the street – beautiful flowers – reconstruction of old irish village. Across from that the esb depot has lovely roses outside along the railings.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Some lovely private residences around the cross with fine gardens. Beechgrove estate was well presented.

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

Belmont would benefit from more footpaths for pedestrians and some road improvements. Approach roads were acceptable, with some roadsides overgrown between the 3 areas.

#### **General Impression:**

The area covered by this application is quite spread out over 3 areas which don't clearly join up - they are further than walking distance with an 80km limit in between- and in general, quite a few derelict buildings and unkempt verges in between the centres marked on map. Moystown cross for example is location for Belmont gaa club so there is legitimacy to a joint application however its confusing how the areas relate to each other. Nevertheless, there is a strong community spirit in this charming, interesting place.