

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Marlfield** Ref: **592**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **233**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 38 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 28 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 30 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 27 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 28 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 3 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 28 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 233 |

Overall Development Approach:

Marlfield is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which was most helpful to the adjudicator. Marlfield is a wonderful village enjoying a superb location on the bank of the River Siur against a backdrop of wooded hills. The Marlfield committee are to be congratulated in engaging the help of other agencies, such as Tipperary South Riding, the Two Bridges Partnership, Birdwatch Ireland, South Tipperary Arts Group, the O'Keefe Family and Clonmel Boy Scouts. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and no doubt this approach will continue to pay handsome dividends. It was noted that the committee have picked up on the comments of previous adjudication in relation to storyboards on wildlife. You are to be congratulated on the in-depth report carried out on the birdlife of Marlfield Lake by Birdwatch Ireland, and on the historical research and tree identification carried out by your secretary. The entire submission facilitated adjudication and made possible a comprehensive understanding of Marlfield village.

The Built Environment:

Previous reports have pointed to the lack of commercial premises at Marlfield as being unusual. However it is noted that a Golf Course and Leisure Centre are about to commence construction and this development will be a great asset to the village. Well done on your submission to the draft Clonmel and Environs Development Plan 2008, containing many fine objectives that will aid sustainability if incorporated.

Landscaping:

The diversity of plant species within the village is an attractive element and the ongoing programme of landscaping will further enhance this wonderful asset. The proposed tree identification boards and the creation of the Arboretum is commendable.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverbank is a wonderful amenity and its potential as an area of wildlife development is being carefully promoted. The newly erected Water Birds of Marlfield Identification Panel is indeed a wonderful achievement. It brings the lake to life and heightens interest for the visitor. The proposed educational CD and provision of information to schools is a commendable project and will serve to encourage the next generation to develop an interest in nature.

Litter Control:

Litter Control was good on the day of adjudication, and your comments on the large amount of visitors from Clonmel was noted. The daily litter clearance programme is working well.

Waste Minimisation:

The intention to improve directional signs to recycling bins at the council yard is welcomed and it is hoped that more initiatives in the Race Against Waste booklet will be developed in the future

Tidiness:

The local GAA sports field on the Knocklofty road has a magnificent location surrounded by woodlands. The entrance walls and gates are impressive but the area was left down by a lack of weed control.

Residential Areas:

The residences throughout the village are generally to a very high standard and well presented. Colour schemes are generally soft and subtle and look well in this woodland context. Mountain View Housing Estate and its village green, looked well on the day of adjudication. However a broken litter bin located by the green steps needs attention. The steps themselves and pathway were in need of weed control. The proposed garden competition is an excellent objective and will heighten awareness of your overall objectives.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Marlfield are truly impressive and roadside verges are neatly presented and enhance the strands of mature trees along the road edges. The road surfaces throughout the village and approach roads are very good. The Clonmel approach is tree-lined with mature trees and neatly trimmed verges. The Knocklofty approach road while generally appearing well had a few minor problems such as a sign obscured by overgrown vegetation and verges requiring weed control and trimming. Your proposed cleaning programme to the rear of Mountain View is commendable.

General Impression:

Marlfield is a most attractive village enjoying a magnificent location on the banks of the river Siur affording scenic panoramic views from its elevated sites. Your continuing efforts will ensure that this unique location will continue to be enhanced.