

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Connolly** Ref: **1181**
County: **Clare** Mark: **197**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	16
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	197

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome back to the competition and we thank you for your completed application form and sketch map. Unfortunately there was no work plan included and this is a pity as a plan allows one to have measurable benchmarks to work to. I would urge you to consider inviting new members on board at your next AGM and then put together a work plan for 2008 – 2011. That will have basic and achievable objectives. Closer links need to be made with Clare County Council and the Enterprise section. Well done on obtaining The Clar Programme and hopefully this will continue to help your village over the next number of years.

The Built Environment:

The village suffers from poor road surfaces and this does not help the overall appearance of the village. The standard of presentation of buildings is rather mixed and you are dependant on the co-operation and goodwill of local owners to keep premises up to scratch.

Getting people to address issues such as dereliction: there is one very obvious one in the core of the village, is always a delicate operation. Keep up your efforts.

The church is a very fine building however it needs some colour to be added to the surrounds - planting / potted planting, etc. in scale with a building of its size.

The Post Office was in pristine condition and the owners are to be complimented. The school was also attractive and the window boxes added to the overall colour.

Landscaping:

We commend your efforts for landscaping. The committee should go a step further and consider asking the Horticultural Section of Clare County Council to decide a simple but effective landscaping programme which

would encompass the entire village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Normal planting will help sustain the wildlife that currently exists. The adjudicator would highly recommend you obtain information on wildlife and biodiversity from the Heritage Council. A very useful publication available is "Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns & Villages" published by the Heritage Council. Being located on the Mid Clare Walking Route gives you a wonderful advantage.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately there was some litter strewn around the village. This problem will have to Normal planting will help sustain the wildlife that currently exists. The adjudicator would highly recommend you obtain information on wildlife and biodiversity from the Heritage Council. A very useful publication available is "Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns & Villages" published by the Heritage Council. Being located on the Mid Clare Walking Route gives you a wonderful advantage.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonably new category which has to be addressed under national Tidy Towns. The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our poor performance among the wider European Community. Getting the school children involved is excellent as children tend to take on board projects with gusto and also learn good practice at an early age.

Refer to the Race Against Waste publications included with the original package for ideas on initiatives that would suit your community.

If Green Flag has been achieved please put it in a prominent position outside the school to show the wonderful initiative of students and teachers. We commend you on your efforts to achieve Green Flag status

Tidiness:

A number of untidy areas are notable, e.g. derelict house in the village. The area opposite the school wall needs attention; rusty barbed wire etc. On approach road from Ennis there is a waste area. A small picnic area might be an option for it, with appropriate planting etc. Untidy open spaces need to be addressed. Weeding and kerb cleaning needs to be addressed throughout the village also.

Residential Areas:

The standard here was a little mixed. Please continue to work on areas mentioned above. Encourage individuals to present their premises to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Again as mentioned above the approach roads need attention. Road surfaces were not good throughout the village. These problems will have to be addressed.

General Impression:

Connolly has potential in the National Tidy Town Competition. Overall the village needs colour; planting etc. Please take the above recommendations on board together with your 3 year plan and you will succeed. You are wished well for the future.