

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bridgetown** Ref: **61**
County: **Clare** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you, the TidyTowns Association, of Bridgetown for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome back to the competition after a gap last year.

Thanks to your Committee of four people, plus your additional volunteers, who took the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee of four is doing very worthwhile work in this small and beautiful village of Bridgetown of less than 200 people. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year plan for Bridgetown to assist you in the development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Your three-year plan would be a new initiative this year and would assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2010/11. This is worthwhile and can of course be altered as the Committee's work progresses over time.

Your ongoing partnership work with the local Authority is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities and could in itself be a specific target in your three-year plan. Your Communications strategy of the newsletter and direct contact with teachers is excellent.

Thanks also for your Village Map, outlining key places of activity of TidyTowns.

The planned South East Clare Show on 20th July is an excellent initiative. I wish it well.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Keep up the good work.

The Built Environment:

One of the challenges facing Bridgetown is to maintain a healthy balance between the commercial demands

and the leisure needs of the village. The Village Green is a key asset for the residents, it must be protected against any inappropriate development. It's a focal point with its natural and lovely links via the bridge to the School, and the Church on the other side of the village. The business people in Bridgetown are aware of the benefits of TidyTowns activities and their business premises are a credit to their owners.

The mixture of commercial and residential areas is in balance and looked very well on the day of my visit.

Premises continue to look well; Tony Horans's Public House, an excellent shopfront presentation. The display of hanging baskets and other flower displays in full bloom was wonderful. Bridgetown Co-Op doing business since 1913 looked well. Cooneys Public House also looked very good and enjoys a wonderful location on the riverside. Well done to all concerned.

The bridge is a lovely feature with its hanging baskets setting off a lovely display on the stone parapets.

The Roman Catholic Church and the surrounding grounds were most impressive. The national school and grounds are well laid out with the flower/vegetable garden an excellent idea.

The residential estates all looked well as did the lovely individual houses around the village. Well done to all concerned.

One recommendation is to maintain the excellent presentation of all buildings by regular painting as required. Also ongoing regular maintenance of the Village Green will continue to add to the quality of life of the residents of Bridgetown. On the day of my visit a few minutes rest in the sunshine on the Village Green watching the ducks walking side by side across the Green was blissful.

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping. Individual residential estates were well presented. The floral displays throughout the village, in particular the hanging baskets were quite beautiful. The bridge is a lovely feature with its hanging baskets setting off a lovely display on the stone parapets.

The pruning of trees on the Green and in the residential estates is of benefit to these areas.

The grassed areas of the Green were in very good condition and a credit to those involved in the maintenance. Well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to establish a marked walking route to include the Village Green are a worthwhile initiative. The Village Green is a treasure and some expert advice should be sought for the protection of existing birdlife and other species and the introduction of further birdlife. The swallows and ducks around the Green and near the river on the day of my visit were an attraction in themselves. Also similar plans to get expert advice on the wild bird habitats might be considered.

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as a Wildlife Interpretative Display is a project to be considered.

Litter Control:

The Village was practically litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends. The role of the teachers and schoolchildren is so very important in maintaining a litter free village. Well done to all.

Waste Minimisation:

As pointed in the previous report of 2006 this area requires further examination by the Committee.

One possible project is the involvement of the primary school in the Green Flag Project.

Tidiness:

Bridgetown looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. Well done. Your project of the kerbs sprayed and swept is producing good results.

One area, which requires attention is the planted shrubbery, established under funding by the national Millennium Committee 2000. This area is difficult to maintain due to its location on a busy road on the outskirts of the village. However as far as possible efforts to improve the area should be undertaken.

Residential Areas:

The beauty of Bridgetown is the appropriate balance between residential estates, plenty of green space at the Village Green, the beauty of the bridge and the river and the church/school and the commercial premises. So close to the bustle of a large city like Limerick it's a quiet tranquil haven of peace.

Riverdale with its single line of two storey, detached houses is a neat and tidy estate. The green area opposite adds to the feeling of space. The entrance name was well laid out with appropriate containers of summer flowers. Well done. The houses opposite Cooneys are an excellent development. Other individual houses deserve credit for their excellent condition and great gardens. Clonboy Estate looks well.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads, signposts and the tidy entrances were of benefit to all in Bridgetown.

One large project which could be considered as a medium to long term project concerns the wirescape of the various overhead power wires that are located throughout the village in general but in particular on the Village Green. A recommendation to consider is the removal of these overhead wires and put them underground. This is a topic for discussion with the appropriate public bodies but if achieved what a difference it would make to Bridgetown.

General Impression:

Bridgetown is a lovely village in which to live and spend leisure time. Congratulations to all involved in maintaining its natural and built beauty.

The ongoing co-operation between the Local Authority and the TidyTowns Committee requires constant attention for the benefits of Bridgetown.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future. I look forward to further visits to your quiet village.