

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knock** Ref: **78**
County: **Clare** Mark: **254**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Kilmurry McMahon Community Group Ltd. for your entry on behalf of Knock village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the village of Knock to the 2008 national TidyTowns competition.

Thanks to your Committee of ten people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. This adjudicator appreciates that this work is a 100% voluntary commitment. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this small and picturesque village of Knock of less than 200 people. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year plan for Knock to assist you in the development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Your three-year plan would be a new initiative next year and would assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2011. This is worthwhile and can of course be altered as the Committee's work progresses over time. A maximum of two pages is all that is required and could be set out in bullet points. Keep it simple, it's probably a matter of listing all new and planned projects.

Your ongoing partnership work and those that have supported your activities 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 public meetings is proving worthwhile. The involvement of the schoolchildren and teachers in discussions on the improvement of the local environment is excellent strategy. The improvement and enhancement of the community is a praiseworthy aim.

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

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

The Built Environment:

One of the observations of this adjudicator is that the Village is spread over approx. one mile on a very busy road. Knock is on a very beautiful location and includes the old village centre, the old and new pier areas, the Ce Cnoc, some excellent older and more recent individual and small scale residential developments, and some one off commercial premises. Therefore all developments are spread mainly over just one road.

One of the challenges facing Knock is to maintain a healthy balance between the "old and the new" the older area around the Piers and the newer developments including residential. One area should not develop at the expense of the other.

The mixture of new and old residential areas is in balance and in general looked well on the day of my visit.

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

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the Individual houses and the newer residential estates were well presented. The flowerbeds at the entrances to the village are attractive and well done. On the Kilmurry McMahon road the ten stone flowerbeds are quite an excellent feature with the backdrop of the magnificent stone wall, with those two black rustic gates well set out. The grassed area is also impressive. The work on this area over recent years has paid dividends.

Congratulations on your initiative to grow your own plants and shrubs from seed in your own constructed tunnels. This is wonderful innovation and so very cost effective. Also well done on the expertise, skills and energies of those people who thought up, designed and constructed the lovely natural wooden seats, tables and flower-boxes on display at Ce Cnoc/ pier area. This is a beautiful piece of work. I love the bog oak pieces.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Knock is blessed with a beautiful location overlooking the waters of Clonderalaw Bay. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. Could walkways be established around the wooded area at the entrance of the village, which would lead to the centre of the village? Could this become a project to be included in your three-year plan for discussion with the relevant organisations? Some expert advice should be sought for the protection of existing wildlife and other species and the introduction of further birdlife. 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 your planned Wildlife Interpretative Display is so very worthwhile.

Litter Control:

The Village was mainly litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The Green Flag award for the School is to be congratulated.

Tidiness:

Knock looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. Well done on your strategy of encouraging residents to take responsibility for their own area. The pier areas, a focal point, were neat and tidy.

Residential Areas:

Some older one off cottages and houses and more recent individual and small-scale residential developments make up the village of Knock. The new residential estate of six bungalows (no name on this estate) looked very well on my visit, with nice stone walls and appropriate tree planting. Good road surface and public lighting are welcome features. The common grassed area was well maintained. The older houses help retain the village character and charm of Knock.

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

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads were well maintained and the landscaped area with the magnificent stone wall, the excellent black wooded gates to give that rustic feel, and the wonderful display of flowers in the stone beds all helped to make the visitor feel welcome and inclined to stop and spend some leisure time in Knock. This area clearly helped to identify, for the locals and visitors alike, the beauty and attractions of Knock as one enters the village from Kilmurry McMahon. The entrance road from Killimer was also well laid out.

Well done to all concerned.

General Impression:

Knock 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 public, and others, and the TidyTowns Committee is evident in the progress made by Knock in the competition.

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