

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ogonnelloe** Ref: **1872**
County: **Clare** Mark: **219**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	219

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you, the Tidy Towns Committee of Ogonnelloe, for your entry to the 2008 Tidy Towns Competition. A special welcome to the village of Ogonnelloe to the national Tidy Towns competition on this your first year of entry.

Thanks to your Committee of eight people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings in addition to other Tidy Towns events. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this small and picturesque village of Ogonnelloe of less than 1,000 population. A recommendation for your Committee is the preparation of a very basic three-year plan for Ogonnelloe 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.

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 Tidy Towns activities and could in itself be a specific target in your three-year plan. Your Communications strategy of meetings, use of noticeboard, School, newspaper and direct contact with teachers and parents association is very worthwhile. The involvement of the schoolchildren in the design of new signs and litter clean-up is excellent strategy.

Thanks also for your Village Map, outlining key places of activity of Tidy Towns. One of the observations of this adjudicator is that the Village is spread over approx. 1.6 miles on a very busy road. Ogonnelloe is on a very beautiful location and includes the old village centre, the Church, the national school, the GAA Club, some excellent and more recent individual and small scale residential developments, and some one off commercial premises attached to private houses. Therefore all developments are spread mainly over just one road.

Further advantage could be taken of this location. All access is by road and the aim should be to clearly identify, for the locals and visitors alike, the beauty and attractions of Ogonneloe as one enters the village.

The planned festivals and events will assist in the positive profile of TidyTowns in Ogonneloe and I would encourage all involved in these activities. The setting up of a website is an excellent initiative and could be a source of some specific sponsorship. However once established the demands of keeping any website up to date and current are not to be underestimated.

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 Ogonneloe is to maintain a healthy balance between the "old and the new" the older area around the Church and the newer developments including residential, school, playing pitches, etc. One area should not develop at the expense of the other. Former commercial premises, which are now closed, are in danger of becoming run down and dilapidated, every effort should be made to prevent this happening. The aim of replacing nameplate signs with natural stone signs is an excellent initiative as is the planning of a suitable picnic area. On the day of adjudication work was underway on the newly landscaped roadside green area. This area includes tree planting, flower beds, and grassed area along the old roadway. This "Village Green" will become a key asset for the residents.

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

Premises that looked well included; the national school, the GAA Club, the Church, Island Court, Gord Eigean MMIX, The Joinery, Gibbons Furniture, the Lantern House & Guest House, and the Glocca Morra B&B.

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.

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.

As the village extends for 1.6 miles between the Ogonneloe placenames, its important to keep all this roadside grassed areas as neat and as well maintained as possible. Difficult to do but worthwhile

As stated above on the day of adjudication work was underway on the newly landscaped roadside green area. This area includes tree planting, flower beds, and grassed area along the old roadway. This "Village Green" will become a key asset for the residents.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ogonneloe is blessed with a beautiful location overlooking the Lake. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. The existing walks need to be identified for the benefit of all. Your plan to establish a RyansShore as a local amenity is 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 a Wildlife Interpretative Display is a project to be considered.

Litter Control:

The Village was mainly 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:

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.

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

Tidiness:

Ogonneloe looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. Well done. Your project of the getting the Council to cut the grass verges is vital.

Residential Areas:

As stated above Ogonneloe is on a very beautiful location and includes the old village centre, the Church, the national school, the GAA Club, some excellent and more recent individual and small scale residential developments, and some one off commercial premises attached to private houses. All the residential estates looked well on my visit, including Island Court 2000, Gort Eigean MMIV, with nice stone walls and appropriate tree planting.

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

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Again to emphasise to the Committee that all access is by road and the aim should be to clearly identify, for the locals and visitors alike, the beauty and attractions of Ogonneloe as one enters the village. All grass verge maintenance and appropriate hedge cutting is vital.

The excellent entrance to the GAA Club at Pairc an Stiobhairt is a good introduction to a wonderful facility for locals and visitors alike. The connection and proximity of the GAA Club to the national school is of great benefit to the schoolchildren. Well done to all concerned on the wonderful twin developments of GAA and the national school.

General Impression:

Ogonneloe 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 private and public sector organisations, voluntary and sporting bodies, the national school and the TidyTowns Committee requires constant attention for the benefits of Ogonneloe.

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