

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tulla** Ref: **521**
County: **Clare** Mark: **227**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Ms Una Fitzgerald for your entry on behalf of Tulla village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to you, as the only person involved in TidyTowns Committee, for your time and effort on TidyTowns activities in Tulla. You are an obviously dedicated community person and are doing very worthwhile work for Tulla, a town with a population of less than 1,000 people. Well done on your energy and commitment.

The work you are doing on behalf of Tulla needs to be strengthened by the formation of an active TidyTowns Committee for the village. If possible Tulla village needs to respond to your initiatives and volunteers need to come forward to work with you on the development of a TidyTowns plan. Part of that plan would involve the co-operation of other organisations, both public and private in TidyTowns Activities. The involvement of all sporting clubs in the area would be of great assistance.

While not formally involved in TidyTowns Committee the thirty-seven other Clubs and Committees in Tulla are assisting in the development of the area. The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done. The primary recommendation is the formation of an active TidyTowns Committee for Tulla in 2009. A further recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a new short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. As part of this plan and to help the town compare its performance in TidyTowns competitions a recommendation to consider is a visit to other towns that are high performers in the 2007 and 2008 national competition.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Enjoy the Music Festival planned for September.

The Built Environment:

The biggest challenge facing small villages like Tulla is to manage change for the benefit of the residents and visitors alike. This change involves many organisations including the statutory and voluntary bodies. This is not an easy task and to date the village seems to be coping well.

Due to ongoing change there is a wide variety in the quality of the built environment in the town. Those buildings that impressed included: The Church; the Library; the Tulla Stables c 1817, the Stiudeonna Stabla an Tulack are dedicated to the memory of the families who used the stables in the past; The St. Moculla national school, (but the front wall needs painting); Teach Ol; Flappers Restaurant; The Credit Union; The Garda Station; The Oifig an Phoist; Vaughan Supply; An Teach Bia; Bia Follain; The Power House; Health Centre; Murphy's Bar. Well done to all.

Congratulations to Tulla United AFC on their magnificent new sports complex on the outskirts of the town, at Cragg. This club, only founded in 1970, had the official opening of their new grounds and clubhouse on the 4th May 2008. The wonderful layout of the grounds and the magnificent clubhouse must be the envy of many a professional sporting organisation throughout the country. It was the highlight of my visit and I look forward to visiting the club on a match day. Well done to all involved in this project, it will serve many future generations. Many sporting organisations and clubs including the GAA Club and the Soccer Club are important assets for the people of the town, well done on their development and on their achievements on the field of play.

There are some excellent individual houses and residential estates in the village with excellent landscaped areas and gardens on display. Well done to all.

Landscaping:

Well done on the landscaping at the individual houses on the outskirts and in the town and at the residential estates, this is of a high standard. In general the residential housing estates are nicely landscaped and well maintained in particular the 29 terraced houses with the lovely landscaped park area opposite. This area has nice trees, hanging baskets, flower beds, picnic tables and nice benches. The bird box on the old tree stump was noted. A name on the various estates and areas would be of assistance.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that help to make Tulla look well. The residential areas also put so much effort into their own gardens and the result is mainly impressive and of benefit.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A suggestion might be to contact the Heritage Council and the Wildlife Ranger to assist in the establishment of further appropriate wildlife project for Tulla.

Litter Control:

Tulla was mainly clear of litter on the day of my visit.
The Litter Free signs are noted.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns 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 involvement of the school in these waste minimisation activities could be a priority for any new Tidy Towns Committee.

Tidiness:

In general, Tulla looked tidy on the day of my visit. The residential areas deserve credit for their own areas of responsibility and maintaining a tidy image for Tulla.

Residential Areas:

The older townhouses help retain the small town character and rural charm of Tulla and some of these are maintained to the best possible standards. Others require painting. Residential Estates looking well included; the 29 Terraced houses with the nice park areas well landscaped.

Some individual houses on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some lovely gardens. Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Well done to all residents for the great effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roadsigns for Tulla –the Windswept Hill look well and welcome the visitor.

The town was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping which could be improved by further planted hanging baskets.

General Impression:

Congratulations to Tulla on your entry again to TidyTowns. Credit to Ms Una Fitzgerald for her efforts on behalf of Tulla. Much excellent work is ongoing in the village not least on the sporting arenas during 2008. Congratulations to Tulla GAA on their first Clare Senior Hurling title in 74 years and again congratulations to Tulla United AFC on their wonderful programme of ground and clubhouse development. With such energy and commitment in Tulla the TidyTowns activities will only benefit if the correct structure and strategy are put in place.

I look forward to further visits to your lovely town