

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockananna** Ref: **247**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **229**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Knockananna is welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your completed application form, informative map and cover letters all of which were of great assistance to the adjudicator on her rounds. The Cnoc an Eanaigh book is a wonderful resource for the village and was most interesting. Your committee of twelve are commended for ongoing co-operation with Wicklow County Council and local businesses. The children of the village must be a great help when picking litter and feeding the birds in the winter. You should consider developing a three year plan for the village at this stage if additional marks are to be gained in this section in the coming years. It need only be a few pages long setting realistic, achievable goals.

The Built Environment:

The Credit Union building is part of the thatched village and looks wonderful in traditional whitewash trimmed with blue. The Cross and 1798 Monument provide a focal point and are clearly cherished. Jacob's and Wagon Wheels are nicely painted. The cute Post Office looked immaculate in cream and green - do you think that An Post might be able to supply a fresher sign before next year's competition? The whitewashing of the Blanchville Centre was well under way on the day of adjudication with only the upper extremities of the bell tower remaining. It looks great. Similarly, the Church of the Immaculate Conception and the National School with its conservatory looked well - the boundary wall however, should be repainted before next year's competition. Well painted farmyard buildings were highly commended in the village. The shop was neat in appearance however the Community Centre and Health Centre looked a little tired.

Landscaping:

Planters and wall-top seasonal blooms brightened up the Cross monument and this was matched by the 1798 monument across the road. The grassy area opposite the Community Hall was unfortunately heavily overgrown on the day of adjudication. Planting along the top of the wall on the Hackettstown road was

admired close to the Post Office. The beds in front of the School too were admired. The corner area opposite the Post Office was delightful. Creepers at the football ground are already beginning to provide cover.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ok, so where exactly is the duck pond?! This unfortunate adjudicator drove for miles trying to find it to no avail! Is it on private property? Please give clear directions to it for next years judging. Again the school children are playing an important role during the winter months feeding the birds. You should consider documenting the findings of your nature walk and submit it with next years entry.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on the day of adjudication however, a scattering was noted at Jacob's. An old bin close to the school should be replaced as there was more rubbish around it than in it!

Waste Minimisation:

Your ongoing promotion of waste minimisation is commended. Do you segregate waste from litter picks for recycling? Contacting the Environment Officer in Wicklow County Council may prove useful in coming up with new ideas for this part of the competition.

Tidiness:

Paths and kerbsides are virtually weed free and clearly you have worked hard in this area. Public seating in the village require repainting and in some cases repair. You should consider a simple colour scheme throughout the village. Mounds of gravel at the Cross should be levelled out as they are currently giving an untidy appearance. An unsightly farmyard fence in the village is unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

New developments and improvement works to existing residences were noted on the Tinahely road. This will no doubt have a significant impact on completion. The thatched village is the most charming addition to Knockananna and properties are presented to a high standard. The semi-detached row opposite the church looked well with No.2 setting the standard. The residences with solar panels too looked great.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tinahely approach road is uneven in places primarily due to ongoing development in the area. Overgrown grass verges should be cut back approximately a foot from the roadside to give a neat appearance whilst also facilitating wildlife habitats.

General Impression:

Yet again it has been a pleasure to visit Knockananna. You are progressing well in this competition and we look forward to your participation for many year to come.