

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Laragh** Ref: **260**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **243**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

Laragh is welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition 2008 and it appears to have been a busy year for your committee of five! Thank you for your detailed entry form, supporting photographs and other relevant information. Your map was clear and this is always useful for a visiting adjudicator. Your regular meetings and ongoing co-operation with Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Rural Partnership, Uplands Council and Duchas is commended. You should consider developing a Three, Four or Five years plan for Laragh as there are many marks to be gained in this section by doing so.

The Built Environment:

The new information sign looks wonderful and is a marvellous addition to Laragh. St Kevins Church is cleanly presented and planters at the steps softened the stone facade. St. Kevins Schools are admired for its neat appearance. The Brocknagh Resource Centre looks great with its spottless car park and tasteful landscaping. The proprietor of Wicklow Heather restaurant is highly commended for its fresh appearance with scarlet blooms contrasting with the whitewashed walls. Celtic Crafts, Glendalough Fayre, Lynaghs, Anns Coffee Shop, The Post Office and McCoys too looked well.

Landscaping:

An effective landscaped area at the entrance to Beechwood was greatly admired. Similarly, a landscaped corner has high impact. Grassy areas were well-trimmed and for this you are commended. Many other incidental areas were noted too, throughout the village and its environs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Contemplative Garden at St. Kevins Church whilst being functional area for prayer is also the most

wonderful wildlife haven. The stream and woodlands could be appreciated from Lynagh's Car Park. Thank you for the information provided on the various types of bird boxes erected in the National Park.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good in Laragh on the day of adjudication with only an odd stray piece being noted.

Waste Minimisation:

St. Kevins School is congratulated on their success in the Green Flag Programme. You are commended for the segregation and recycling of litter.

Tidiness:

The signage on the Annamoe approach was spotless and this sets the standard! Unfortunately, however, as one approached Laragh the quality of directional signage deteriorates somewhat. Kerbside weeds were evident at the residential area adjacent to McCoys and this should be addressed before next years competition. The wooden fences looked a little tired and should be revarnished. Property owners should be encouraged repaint walls as soon as staining appears.

Residential Areas:

Beechwood was admired for its many well-presented houses. Many of the bungalows with mature gardens with well maintained lawns were noted in particular for neatly presented lawns. The Arch too is most striking. Village residences are freshly painted and many had impressive displays of hanging baskets.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The majority of the roads, streets and back areas of Laragh are neat in appearance and road markings are clear. However, the approach to St. Kevins Church and the footpaths and road surfaces at Beechwood are quite uneven. The same problem was noted at the bungalows beside McCoys.

General Impression:

Steady progress is being made in Laragh in this competition due to your systematic approach to problem solving. Your progress is lauded and you are congratulated on all the hard work. Well done!