

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scariff** Ref: **87**
County: **Clare** Mark: **237**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	237

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Scariff and thank you, the Scariff Community Council, for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your Entry Form and Sketch map.

Thanks to your Committee of twelve people who take the time and effort to attend your twenty four meetings on an annual basis in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in the village of Scariff of less than 1,000 people.

Your ongoing partnership work with the Clare County Council and with Waterways Ireland is of benefit to all. Partnership between different organisations is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities. Your communications strategy is worthwhile but I would recommend a review to examine the benefits for TidyTowns activities of your existing strategy. Is your website, www.scariff.com of benefit to TidyTowns? The involvement of the local national schoolchildren in Litter control and Litter patrols is to be applauded. Your Committee's involvement in TidyTowns competition should continue to be of benefit for the people of Scariff.

A recommendation is the preparation of a one/two page Three-Year Plan incorporating all targets and actions for your TidyTowns Activities. Bullet point format is fine. This plan would add to your submission.

I wish you all the best with your planned Tidy Town activities, including the Scariff Harbour Festival, into the future.

The Built Environment:

As pointed out in previous reports Scariff has a mixture of some excellent traditional buildings but some high profile derelict buildings reduce their positive impact.

Those public buildings that impress include the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and the Public Library.

Many commercial premises looked well on the day of my visit. These included: J.Molony's Bar; Bane's Gift Shop; The Grainey; the Holistic Therapy Clinic; O'Meara's Pharmacy; Mary Conway's Self-Catering Accommodation.

The old Cinema is closed and in a derelict state, as indeed is the Scariff Co-Op Mart.

Many residential estates looked well in particular the Connaught Road Estate.

Landscaping:

The Town Square of Scariff has some excellent landscaped areas with nice paving, flowerbeds and some trees planted in appropriate areas around the Market House. The replanting and maintenance of tubs, boxes and baskets in town is a positive feature of the landscaping of Scariff.

The Riverside Park and Walk is an amenity with wonderful potential. The linear riverside park provides an excellent facility for residents and visitors alike. To date its obvious that much planting and landscaping has taken place in the areas adjacent to the car parks of the Riverside Park. Well done on the work to date. The grassed areas showed signs of maintenance and looked well along the riverside.

However on the day of my visit the condition of the car parks and their immediate vicinity was most disappointing. Much needed maintenance was required on the shrub beds near the car parks. In addition the available litterbins were full to overflowing with empty bottles and cans. Some of the litterbins were either rusty or broken.

The public, commercial and residential premises in the village are mainly well landscaped including some displays of hanging flower baskets and other flower containers. The hanging baskets along parts of the streets are a feature. Care and attention is obvious throughout the village in many aspects of landscaping

Well done to all involved in the various locations for the good landscaping throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As stated above The Riverside Park and Walk is an amenity with wonderful potential. The linear riverside park provides an excellent facility for residents and visitors alike. To date its obvious that much planting and landscaping has taken place in the areas adjacent to the car parks of the Riverside Park. Well done on the work to date. The grassed areas showed signs of maintenance and looked well along the riverside.

Scariff is fortunate that it is situated on a beautiful rural and waterside location. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. Could further research be undertaken into a Wildlife Habitat Survey to further establish what habitats and wildlife may exist in the area?

The Scariff Harbour is a first class facility and those involved in its development are to be congratulated.

The involvement of the school children in appropriate Wildlife and Natural Amenities projects is to be encouraged.

Litter Control:

The Village of Scariff was mainly litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends. The Scariff Harbour area was well maintained and free of litter. Well done on this excellent facility and the manner it is kept litter free.

However on the day of my visit the condition of the Riverside Park car parks and their immediate vicinity was most disappointing. The available litterbins were full to overflowing with empty bottles and cans. Some of the litterbins were both rusty and broken.

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 work with the County Council on the Civic Amenity Area is to be applauded. The ongoing liaison with Clare County Council to continue the successful recycling and waste transfer is very positive. Its ongoing monitoring by the Committee is a strategy to be recommended.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness left room for improvement in particular at lovely amenity areas such as the Riverside Park. The area close by the Church was in excellent condition and kept tidy. As stated above the treatment of the old derelict buildings is a difficult task.

The condition of some road surfaces was disappointing and looked untidy.

Residential Areas:

In general the residential areas of Scariff looked well on my visit, with nice landscaping and appropriate tree planting. Some common grassed area was well maintained. The older houses throughout the village are mainly well presented. Also the hanging flower baskets are excellent. In particular of note was the excellent condition of Connaught Road Estate and the welcoming estate name set out in Irish and English. This is a very nice estate with well-laid out sloping lawns and mature trees including twelve Silver Birch to be seen. The hanging baskets were very colourful. The colour was added to by the celebration of Munster and Clare flags. Well done on the work here. The Committee's ongoing liaison with residential estates and their general encouragement to residents is well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads and the condition of Shannon Harbour were in very good condition. While its appreciated that ongoing infrastructure work does not lend itself to good road surfaces, there is a priority need for the County Council to carry out much needed improvements to road surfaces on the completion of such works

As was previously highlighted a survey of street signage would be worthwhile.

Again as previously reported, the removal of wirescape of the overhead cables around the main street of the village is a recommendation. This could be discussed with the appropriate authority.

General Impression:

Scariff is a very busy village with much traffic. This places pressure on the infrastructure of the village in terms of tidiness, litter, etc. the aim should be to retain the charm and character of Scariff while allowing much needed improvements in infrastructure to take place. This is not an easy task. Ongoing liaison with the County Council is important. It's important for the Committee and all involved to maintain Scariff's natural and built beauty for the benefit of locals and visitors alike.

Well done on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future.