

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athlacca** Ref: **1030**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **207**
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

We welcome Athlacca back to the Tidy Towns Competition after a 7 year break. Thank you for your submission, which consisted of the entry form, some photographs and a map of Athlacca village.

Thank you for your efforts to the 10 members of the Tidy Towns Committee and for your twice weekly meeting during the summer. It is suggested that you would attempt to continue your meetings on a monthly basis during the rest of the year to prepare a three year plan for Tidy Towns activities for the period of 2010-2012. Preparation of a multi annual plan would enable you to set some specific aims, objectives and targets and would enable you to monitor progress as each year elapses.

Your partnership work with Limerick County Council, Ballyhoura Development and the Graveyard Committee's, and your engagement through the parents association in the National School are all positive features of your Tidy Towns activities.

As you have said, Tidy Towns generates great community spirit and pride in the village and a further suggestion might be for your committee to visit a similar sized village in the mid-west region which could serve as a model for your endeavours. Birdhill in North Tipperary would be well worth a visit, and this could be arranged with the local committee.

Best wishes for your involvement in the Garden Fete on August 15th. We note that the recent Trinity Festival was held in early June; maybe this could become part of your activities if not already so. The benefit of your three year plan would be to liaise with other partner organisations and Limerick County Council with a view to gaining some assistance.

The Built Environment:

Athlacca consists of a small rural village built around the National School, Catholic Church, Dromin/Athlacca G.A.A. Club, Athlacca Post Office, and the very impressive recently developed (2001) Dawn Court Residential Housing Area.

The centre of the village features the village green and the Athlacca Burial Ground, along with some private commercial premises. The public buildings look very well and are in good condition.

Landscaping:

The village Green with its mature trees is a nice feature of the village. The flower beds here and on either side of the bridge are also attractive. As was recommended previously, some tree planting inside the stone wall would further enhance the village appearance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A natural and very worthwhile feature of the village is the Morning star River and it is felt every effort should be made to encourage natural amenities around this area.

Litter Control:

The existence of a small number of litter bins was noted, one of which required emptying on the day of the visit. In general, the village was tidy, and litter free on the day of our visit.

Waste Minimisation:

The Clothing Bank was noted and it is good to see this facility in a well maintained state. Its use should be further encouraged through the existing linkages with the National School

Tidiness:

Generally, the village was tidy on adjudication day, some commercial premises could do with a clean up, however, on the exterior of their premises.

Residential Areas:

The bungalows in Cois Abhainn residential area are well maintained, with the grassed area clean and tidy. Some nice individual houses are also to be found in Athlacca.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

From the Bruff Road, the entrance to the village is well displayed by nice stone walls and pedestrian pavements adjacent to the Dawn Court Residential area.

The road signage is effective and the road structure appears sound. Some grass cutting on the verges of the approach roads would help.

General Impression:

Athlacca with its natural amenities has good potential to achieve greater marks in the Tidy Towns Competition. Compliments to your team, and all involved