

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clarina** Ref: **1994**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **201**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	5
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>201</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Clarina as a new entry to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for submitting your entry form and sketch map of the area. We note that your village has a population of 215 and this is represented by 16 people on your committee, and that you have held three meetings to date to get your Tidy Towns up and running. Well done on that level of activity and it's also positive that you are linked with the Ballybrown/Clarina Community Council for assistance. Your plans to engage with the school regarding litter awareness and clean-up will prove of benefit to the community into the future.

We note that some categories in the entry form are not completed; this needs to be done to gain the additional points available. These categories with no information for projects planned for this year included the Built Environment; Landscaping; Wildlife and Natural Amenities; and Roads Street and Back Areas; and General Impression.

One recommendation is to prepare a short, concise three year plan for 2010-2012 to enable your Committee to establish aims and objectives, and to set achievable targets for these years. The planning process will help clarify many issues and establish priorities. There is no need to get a professional to develop the plan, it could be done by your committee.

### **The Built Environment:**

It would appear that Clarina has in recent years undergone significant new development, both commercial and residential, however, it appears much of this work remains unfinished, especially at the roundabout area. Clarina Pharmacy at Clarina Country Stores, on the right hand side of the road before the roundabout, seemed to be undergoing renovations. Next door was a new three storey commercial development,

completed but closed, and surrounded by an unsightly metal barrier. This was balanced by, on the opposite side of the road, some nice individual bungalows with mature front gardens. John O'Neill's Service Station looks neat and tidy.

The old village mainly consists of residential buildings, and the area is nicely maintained with good footpaths and stone walls. The lovely stone wall at the Ballybrown GAA Club looks very well. Outside this wall, it is good to see that weeds had been treated with weed killer, however, this left some litter visible. The stone boundary wall is in keeping with its surroundings and well maintained. The old Castle type residence, next door to the GAA club, is a very impressive feature.

The entrance to the Thorpe's Nursing Home was well presented, with some lovely displays of red roses and mature palm trees. St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Ballybrown (1837) is well presented, with a nice stone exterior and neat grounds. Clarina Riding Centre, right in the village centre, looks quite impressive, with tidy white washed walls. McElligott's Coaches Complex looked clean and tidy.

### **Landscaping:**

It is recommended that the grass verges be trimmed and cut back, and hedges cut and maintained at the appropriate time of year, so as not to interfere with bird and wildlife nesting patterns.

A landscape plan needs to be prepared as part of the overall three year plan. Some individual private residences were well presented. The old world style of gardens at the village centre houses are in contrast to the recently developed housing estates.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

A recommendation is to prepare a Wildlife Habitat Survey as part of your links with some local expert on indigenous birdlife, and other wildlife. A wildlife Habitat survey of the villages could be undertaken as part of your plan, also a wildlife management plan could be prepared. You might consider organising a survey of existing wildlife in the area to establish their requirements, so that an appropriate range of trees and shrubs can be provided within your plans. The survey could be an ideal project to involve the local school children, under the guidance of their teacher or a local wildlife enthusiast.

The importance of appreciating and encouraging bio-diverse environments for wildlife is growing and receiving recognition within the Tidy Towns programme so it would be worthwhile to involve a local wildlife enthusiast or contact Limerick County Council Environment section for guidance in broadening the scope of your activities in this area. Bird Watch Ireland is a further source of information.

### **Litter Control:**

Some litter was evident on the Ballybrown Road and other approach roads with little sign of any litter bins, except for one at the traffic lights, for people to make use of.

Although Clarina is a relatively small area, it still requires an effort to keep litter at bay and on the day of our visit, we didn't notice any major pockets of litter, so well done to all concerned. In order to maintain the cleanliness of the area, it would be important to regularly link with the local school and involve the children in any clean up operations. It is noted that your committee has already organised two clean-ups this year.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

There is no evidence of recycling bins in the village, or of the National School having a Green Flag; this could form the focus of future waste minimisation projects for the village.

Although a recycling bank is not currently available within your village, there are still many actions which can be taken to reuse, recycle and reduce waste and, if you do not already have the Race against Waste literature we would strongly recommend that you obtain copies and consider implementing suitable projects.

### **Tidiness:**

It was a pity to see recent local and European election posters of 3 candidates still posted on a telephone pole, 2 weeks after the election. The approach roads were generally clean and litter free.

**Residential Areas:**

Clarina is an older village with many fine established residences and some recently developed residential housing areas. The aim is to blend the old and the new and in the current economic climate some of the newer developments seem to have been caught in the economic downturn.

The new residential area of Cill Chaoide consists of newly developed scheme of terraced and semi-detached houses; an excellent development. Aos Cluan development is found next door. However, the standard of public areas is mixed. Some areas are well maintained, but other green areas still are in an unfinished state, and make the whole area appear quite untidy.

The Crescent shaped development, adjacent to Aos Cluan, is also very impressive and tidiest of the developments here. It would seem that some of the area adjoining, to some very fine new residential areas, is essentially an unfinished work / in-progress building site. There is an area called Cuirt na hAbhann of unfinished houses adjacent to this crescent, which also detracts from the development. It's clear that the newer houses are all excellent residences, but that some of the public green areas are not developed to the same extent.

Compliments to the owners of the nicely kept Terracotta residence at the traffic lights. Many of the older residences are in excellent condition and are well presented.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach road from Limerick to Clarina was in a good condition, with the grass margins on both sides approaching the 50Kmh sign cut. However, one side of the road with a large area had been cut, but still looked untidy. The approach to the crossroads and traffic lights had two well maintained footlights on either side, which were in good condition. Approaching the roundabout on the exit to west Limerick, however, resembled a building site, with large steel barriers erected to protect work in progress on the building site from public access. At the exit road from the village, on the right hand side, there is a nice tarmacadam footpath, which is battling with the spread of grassed area and needs to be maintained.

The approach road from Ballybrown was in a good condition, with a nice footpath and public lighting. There was a mixture of old rural cottages and newer bungalows which blend well together.

**General Impression:**

The village is set in lovely rural countryside and, while good work is being done, we would strongly recommend that your new committee takes on the immediate task of preparing your three plan for 2010-2012. This will help you to clarify issues and establish targets. The benefit of such an action plan is it enables you present the document to potential partner organisations and local businesses for possible support, and to raise issues of concern to the residents of Clarina.

Well done to all involved in the work to date and we wish you much success with future projects.