

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Garryspillane** Ref: **219**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **231**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	231

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Garryspillane to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition on behalf of your village of less than 200 population, and thank you for the entry form and for supplying the sketch map of the area. It is positive that you have been able to increase your committee from five back to seven, obviously the stronger the Committee the easier the workload on all. Your support from FAS and Limerick County Council to support your activities is all of benefit for the community of Garryspillane.

It would be worthwhile to prepare a concise three year plan setting out the aims, objectives and short term and medium targets for TidyTowns activities in Garryspillane over the period 2010-2012. There is no need to get a professional to carry out the plan preparation, it's better to keep it short and simple and maybe a task for a two or three people in your Committee to prepare and then for wider discussion with your Committee of 7. Such a plan would also help with discussions with the County Council and FAS plus other supporting agencies and business concerns.

The Built Environment:

This spread out mainly rural village has a number of very well maintained commercial premises, including the Super Stores Co-Op, The Post Office and Shop, The Welcome Inn, and Henchy's garage. These premises were all very well presented; the red railings and flower tubs set off the Super Stores Co-Op complete with the framed painting of the old Garryspillane Co-operative Creamery; the Post Office and Shop, located at the cross roads, were well painted and neat. The Welcome Inn looked just that. Henchy's garage and forecourt were well maintained and despite the large car parking area, the complex was neat and tidy. The newly developed playground amenity area, donated by Tom and Sharon Lynch, is a joy; a lovely development which the children of the area will enjoy for many years. The lack of appropriate car parking adjacent to this amenity

area is a matter to consider.

The use of the black and amber paint on the appropriate walls, kerbs, gates is attractive.

Landscaping:

In general, landscaping throughout the village and approach roads was very well presented and the Amenity Area, the linear parks, the stone Welcome to Garryspillane, shrub and flower areas are all in excellent condition. Landscaping throughout the village was a credit to your committee. The stone Welcome to Garryspillane plaque at the Galbally junction was beautifully presented, with mature shrubs to the rear and the lovely colourful plants provided in the stone container. The small trees and shrubberies outside the Co-Op created a lovely setting for the picture of the old creamery. The excellently developed playground amenity area, donated by Tom and Sharon Lynch, is a joy, a lovely facility which the children of the area will enjoy for many years. The little cart with the milk churn on display, the wooden picnic table and benches and play houses are all very attractive, and in excellent condition. The surrounding wall was well constructed. The excellent standard of landscaping at the crossroads was really eye catching, with the little village pump, donkey and cart, children at the wishing well and the planted wheelbarrow. The tree planted and highlighted by the plaque in memory of Mickey Guiney is a lovely tribute. The shrubbery and kerbing outside the Post Office and landscaping along the roadside were well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As previously suggested in last year's report, we would recommend that you consider developing a wildflower meadow or, perhaps you could use a small section of the amenity area to plant native berried shrubs, which would encourage birdlife. You might also consider seeking the advice of a local wildlife enthusiast. If you need suggestions regarding possible contacts, perhaps the County Council could suggest someone.

Litter Control:

Your submission did mention the litter control actions which you carry out, including encouragement of residents to clean the immediate areas near their properties. The village was relatively clear of litter on the day of inspection, so credit to all. We appreciated the difficulty caused by traffic on the main roads. Litter control is working reasonably well in the village. The litter bin in the amenity playground was clean and tidy.

Waste Minimisation:

Referring to last year's report, the comments could still apply. It is positive to see that the litter gathered on your Clean-Up days is segregated and recycled. The appropriateness of a recycling bank could be checked out for your village. In addition, other actions could be taken to reuse, recycle and reduce waste. Waste minimisation leaflets could be circulated to homes and businesses in the area. For further suggestions, consult the Race against Waste literature.

Tidiness:

It's a positive feature of Garryspillane that the village was, in general, very tidy on the day of our visit. Grass verges and hedges were generally well controlled. The road signs were mainly clean and well maintained. The yellow and black paintwork on the little bridge at the junction for Glenbrohane was in excellent condition and this was important from a safety viewpoint. At the Galbally junction, the black farm gate and grey pillars were very well painted. All businesses in the area were operating within very tidy sites.

Residential Areas:

The residents of Garryspillane deserve credit for the high standard of most residences in the area. While there are no residential estates in the village, it does have some fine individual properties, with lovely attractive landscaped gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads in the area were generally in good condition. Directional road signs were clean and visible and, well maintained.

General Impression:

Garryspillane is a lovely village with some excellently presented business premises and private residences. Other positive features include the well landscaped amenity and park areas. Well done to all involved in TidyTowns activities and credit to all. Keep up the good work.

