

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Hospital** Ref: **456**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **222**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **10/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>222</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you Hospital TidyTowns Committee for your entry to the 2009 Competition. Well done on your completed form and on the sketch map included. It is good to note that you have maintained your committee at 9 and that one of those members is on the school committee for environmental issues. We note that you meet formally 3 times per annum, and are in frequent contact. We would recommend, if possible, that you could meet on perhaps a monthly basis, ten times per year for example. As was previously mentioned, it is recommended and encouraged to prepare and submit initially a very broad three year plan for the period 2010-2012. This would enable you to set a framework and a structure for TidyTowns activities in Hospital. The plan would include some specific targets that are achievable and measurable, and these would thus enable you to monitor progress over the three years.

It is good to note that you have maintained your entry in TidyTowns over many years and that you find the experience of benefit to the town.

### **The Built Environment:**

St. John's Park and the GAA club are an impressive lay out, with well maintained grounds and apparently quite new clubhouse; it is a pity to see small pit of litter spoiling, otherwise, a top-class facility. It is very good to see a defibrillator positioned on the exterior wall of the clubhouse, showing a great care for the community and attention to detail; hopefully, it will remain in position on the wall and not require use. The car park outside the club and adjacent to the church was well laid out, surrounded by pleasant stone walls and nice shrubbery areas.

The ruins of the old Abbey and graveyard are historical features of times past and it is suggested that an

appropriate information panel be located close by.

Tennis Courts on the other side the town were well maintained, flood lit and a credit to the club, this is an excellent facility well kept.

The floodlit all-weather playing field/basketball court next to the soccer pitch is another good sporting facility; however, litter was seen around the area and a broken gate lying in the car parking area.

The handball alley was also in evidence in the town; it is obvious that there is a good sporting infrastructure for the benefit of all.

The Catholic Church and Scoil Íosagáin Ospidéal were well presented.

There are many fine commercial premises together with a good range of individual residences and developments in and around the town.

The business in the town which stood out during my visit were Scoby's and Devane's pubs, D O'Carroll's Post Office, M O'Leary's, Kenny's Arcade, Gannon's and Hospital Pharmacies. John JM Power & Co., O'Sullivan's Shop, Donnie Butler's Pub, Wheeler Auctioneers, O'Neill's Hardware.

The centre of education in the town centre could do with a coat of paint, it is felt.

St.John The Baptist School complex is a wonderful facility for the town, and credit to all concerned for its excellent maintenance and presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

On the approach road from Limerick, the rockery is an attractive feature, with wild flowers in abundance. Opposite, the lay-by is kept nice and tidy, with the mature trees, but some kerb-side weeds needed tending to.

The grass near the rockery, opposite Scoil Iosagain, was in need of cutting at the Killeely sign.

The mature trees opposite the church and GAA club are a magnificent feature on the approach to the town, displayed behind a beautiful stone wall. These are a very impressive features of the residence known as Kenmare Castle and very pleasing to see the excellent condition that these trees and walls are kept in.

Unfortunately, the fountain area was appealing, but the fountain did not seem to be working properly at the time of our visit.

Some individual premises in the main street were well landscaped with hanging baskets.

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

The river is indeed a natural focus for encouraging wildlife, set as it is within easy walking reach of the town and next to the car park. The footbridge is the ideal viewing platform for any wildlife activities on the river for both, adults and school children, alike. The little riverside park, with the white benched, was nicely maintained. It is a pity that there are some signs of ad hoc littering on the river bank and in the river itself. As was suggested previously, a wildlife project involving the local schools and interested adults could be something to be examined further.

### **Litter Control:**

Generally, the main streets of Hospital were litter free, but on the outskirts of the town there was evidence of some littering, such as by the river and in the river itself, at the lay by area and rockery, the recycling area, and the soccer pitch.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Despite requests made on a sign from the Tidy Towns Committee to not leave rubbish on the footpath, the Limerick Co. Council bring bank was quite untidy. There were black bags of rubbish on the footpath, and rubbish and cardboard boxes left lying around.

As was stated in previous reports under the category of waste management, there are numerous projects

which could be undertaken, including the encouragement of individual households to start composting; circulation of waste minimisation literature to homes and businesses in the community or organisation of a Waste Awareness Day.

### **Tidiness:**

The Enterprise Centre was badly in need of maintenance, with grassed areas uncut and untidy. Some signage within the town required either cleaning or refurbishment. For example, the Tipperary/Bruff sign at the end of the town needed cleaning, as was the case last year. Weed control was still causing some problems and weeds were observed at several kerbsides.

While the recent local and European election posters were still allowed to be up within the approved 1 week time frame on the day of our visit, it is hoped that these posters will have all been removed in the shortest time frame possible.

It was encouraging to see grass strimming work being done on the Tipperary side of the town on the day of our visit, revealing nice stone walls at the road side.

### **Residential Areas:**

Galtee View/Glenview Drive is a nice residential area, however the green areas were in bad need of cutting. The statue of the Knights Hospitaller looked a forlorn figure amongst the unkempt grass. The Co.Council no dumping sign was lost in the tall grass.

Some nice individual houses on the outskirts of the village, were well presented and landscaped.

The new Cluan Faoise estate, found on the right hand side before Galtee View opposite the Munster Packaging factory, is quite nice and well kept

A nice terrace of houses was seen opposite the Garda Station and the Centra premises. Also, a lovely row of semi-detached houses was found opposite the family resource centre.

The sheltered housing near the Convent was in excellent condition, with some very attractive landscaping, and a lovely grotto.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the approach road from Limerick, the rockery is an attractive feature with wild flowers in abundance. Opposite, the lay-by is kept nice and tidy, with the mature trees, but some kerb-side weeds needed tending to.

The grass near the rockery, opposite Scoil Iosagain, was in need of cutting at the Killeely sign. The traffic bollard in the centre of the road was again untidy. The boundary wall of the school would benefit from a coat of paint.

A lot of road-side weeds were seen on the Limerick road entering the town.

### **General Impression:**

While your good progress has been maintained from previous years, we feel the preparation of a three year plan would further enable you to carry out some achievable targets. Overall, the area approaching from the Limerick side was very impressive and provides a welcoming vista to the visitor, with many mature trees, impressive stone walls, the well maintained GAA club and Church. We recommend that the task of weed control be improved as far as possible. We appreciate the hard work that has been carried out by your committee this year and we encourage you to keep up the momentum. Best wishes for the coming years.