

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockainey** Ref: **1252**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your Knockainey TidyTowns entry form and your sketch map of the village. Welcome to the new TidyTowns Committee which was formed in March 2009. It is good to see Knockainey returning to participate in the TidyTowns Competition after an absence of one year. The strategy of your community planning process, which as you say was undertaken in 2008 and facilitated by Ballyhoura Development Ltd., is indeed a worthwhile process, which this adjudicator feels will bear a lot of positive results over the coming years. The structure of TidyTowns Committee operating as a sub-committee of the Knockainey Historical and Conservation Society seems appropriate, as this society has a track record of achievement in the restoration of the old Church. The planning process includes your 3-5 Year Village Plan, which will be a good framework for the further development of TidyTowns Committee. The work undertaken by the Knockainey Historical and Conservation Society in 2007, which focused on the renovation of St. John's Church, is indeed a worthwhile initiative and is the catalyst for the proposed renovation of Sexton's House, the belltower and some of the mausolea in the graveyard. Your partnership with Ballyhoura Rural Development and Limerick County Council is also of benefit. The strategy of hosting regular musical/historical events in St. John's Church is worthwhile and should be developed and continued further. Your Committee's involvement in the Ballyhoura Walking Festival and in Heritage Week will increase the awareness of the activities of the TidyTowns Committee for the benefit of the community. It could be of benefit to set reasonable and achievable targets for each year of the plan and, thus, see the cumulative positive effects, as each year's targets are achieved. Overambitious targets are not a good idea.

The Built Environment:

The central attraction in Knockainey is the renovated St. John's Church. The surrounding areas feature some commercial property, which are not in good repair. In direct contrast, there are some very positive features

including Moloney's Pub, which is so very well presented and maintained with lovely floral displays. Also attractive are the Catholic Church, the Grotto, the Community Centre, a 16th century derelict castle, the National School and Knockainey Sports Ground on the outskirts of the village. There are some very attractive individual residences and the two semi-detached indigenous cottages located in the centre of the village are a nice feature. The Grotto at the crossroads is indeed an attractive feature. One of the benefits and attractions of the area is the quiet location of the village between Hospital and Bruff, and its proximity to Lough Gur. Knockainey Stud is also a nice feature on the outskirts of the village.

One suggestion might be to attempt to have the overhead wires relocated underground, in particular around St. John's Church. This could be a specific target in your five year plan.

There exists a number of run down and derelict buildings in the village. These take from the attractiveness of the village.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and the lawns at the Community Centre and Catholic Church are well maintained. No other formal landscaping programme has been undertaken within the village, as this is awaiting the development of the 3-5 Year Plan. There are some nice individual private landscaping in individual houses and also at the Grotto in the Village centre. Moloney's Pub stands out as well maintained with its 6 hanging baskets, 4 window boxes and 2 tubs of flowers.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The indigenous strengths of the area include Knockainey Hill, and your proposals to develop walks in this area focusing on wildlife and natural amenities is to be applauded.

It is always advisable to seek guidance from someone with good knowledge of wildlife and natural habitats, in this respect the County Council may be able to help with contacts.

Litter Control:

In general, the village was clean on the day of the visit; however, there was some loose litter on the green area near the Grotto. The ad-hoc litter patrols are working well.

Waste Minimisation:

There was one clothes bank in evidence in front of the Community Centre which is to be applauded. Other nearby towns and villages which have Bring Centres could be examined as a case study for the benefit of Knockainey.

Apart from the fact that we all need to reduce, recycle and reuse our waste, this is also an opportunity to make noticeable progress within the Tidy Towns Competition. Although further recycling banks may not be feasible for your village, there are still many actions which could be taken. For example, waste collected during your clean up sessions could be segregated and waste minimization leaflets could be circulated to homes and businesses in the area. For further suggestions consult the Race against Waste literature.

Tidiness:

The village looked generally tidy. However, in the centre of the village, the green area near St. John's Church is surrounded by barbed wire, which is very much in need of repair. Some old commercial premises could benefit from a general tidy up and efforts should continue to examine the removal of obvious discarded materials which tend to damage the scenic and natural beauty of the area.

Residential Areas:

Individual Houses dominate; there are no schemes of houses in the village. Most individual houses are well maintained and well kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There was only one signpost identifying Knockainey from the surrounding countryside. It is recommended that the number of these signs should be increased.

There is no road sign identifying the village on the approach road from Limerick/Lough Gur. The approach roads could benefit by cutting back the roadside ditches, and the cleaning up of some concrete

walls on the roadside leading to the Catholic Church.

General Impression:

The village is situated in nice countryside with the mountains providing a scenic backdrop, its closeness to Lough Gur is also an advantage.

Knockainey has the potential to be a very appealing village. The recently completed community planning process is to be applauded and it is obvious that a great deal of hard work will be done, by your committed team of six, in the preparation of the three-five year plan. We would strongly recommend that, in preparation for next year's entry, you concentrate on the areas of wildlife/natural amenities and tidiness, as these could provide good potential for enhanced marks. Keep up the good work.