

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughill West** Ref: **462**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Loughill West to the 2009 National TidyTowns Competition on behalf of the Community Development Association. Thank you for your completed entry and helpful sketch, outlining the various areas of interest.

Well done on getting such a large committee of 20 people together to represent Loughill in TidyTowns activities and for holding monthly meetings and weekly clean up evenings for the summer months. It indicates a positive attitude in the community towards the upkeep of the area and this is evident in the overall presentation of the village. The engagement with the school by your members giving talks on topics including the environment is a positive feature of your activities.

Well done on your fundraising initiatives and achieving support from Limerick County Council, much can be achieved when working in partnership.

Best of luck with your two festivals planned for later in June and in September.

The Built Environment:

With its wonderful location, overlooking the Shannon Estuary, the Church of the Assumption looked splendid, with well painted walls and railings together with attractive landscaping. There is need to paint the flagpoles and lamp standards.

On its lovely elevated site overlooking the river, Gerald Griffin Resource Centre (2006) on Ballyhahill Road

was in good condition and looked well. There was an eye catching stone wall on the same road with some flower pots placed on the wall, but the planting of flowers had yet to happen. The national school from 1952 was undergoing an extension, so it was not possible to make any worthwhile comments on its presentation.

The Anglers Rest was looking well painted in black and amber with the national flag and the Limerick GAA colours flying proudly in the wind. The Elm Fireplaces complex was in excellent condition. The stone bridge overlooking the river looked well, nicely decorated with hanging baskets on stainless steel supports to resist the weather from the Estuary.

Landscaping:

The Ferry road car park overlooking the river and estuary looked well with rose beds and shrubberies, but these flowers were battling for survival with the many weeds evident and this was a pity to see. The hanging baskets on the bridge looked very well. The lay-by picnic area on the Glin road was a lovely place to rest for a short time, with its great views of the Estuary. It's well presented with good seating, appropriately planted flower boxes and litter bin. There was good use of trees on the approach to the village.

Ballyhahill Road had pretty planted containers along the wall and properties in the area were generally well maintained. The attractive planting on both main road approaches, together with the colourful hanging baskets on the bridge, created a welcoming ambience.

The Church grounds looked well with nice shrubberies.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The organisation of bird watching by your committee, under the expert guidance of Bird Watch Ireland, is a very worthwhile initiative. We look forward to viewing the wildlife display board on a future visit.

With the school undergoing renovation, it was difficult to get value for bird watching activities.

Litter Control:

The village looked mainly litter free on the day of our visit. It is good to note that you have been involving the young people of the area in litter collection and at the time of our visit, the effort seemed to be producing good results. The designation of different people to pick up litter in different areas is positive and, as stated, the involvement of the young people is an encouraging sign.

Litter bins in the area were coping adequately; however, it is important to ensure that collections are adjusted as necessary to deal with peak usage.

Waste Minimisation:

The five recycling bins in the Car Park were being utilised and the area around them was clean and litter free, well done to everyone. The warning sign stating "You are Known" is apparently having the desired effect.

Congratulations to the school for the award of the Green Flag. Good to note that after the clean-ups the litter is segregated.

As previously stated, there are several more initiatives, which you might consider, to boost endeavours in this area, for example encouraging individual households to start composting, organising a waste awareness day and circulating waste minimisation brochures to residents in the area. This is a relatively new category within the TidyTowns and it will take time and hard work to successfully win the Race Against Waste.

Tidiness:

The area in general was tidy and it was obvious that care and attention had been paid to the village. However, at the time of our visit, the shrubbery and rose beds near the car park overlooking the bridge were in need of weeding.

Signage in the area was generally in good, clean condition and the Children Crossing signs were clearly visible, but it would be important to monitor them regularly to ensure that vegetation doesn't encroach on these important signs

Traffic management on the main road is difficult due to the large volume of traffic passing through the area; however, the village seemed to be coping well in spite of the difficulty

Residential Areas:

The residential houses at Asgard Cove are blessed with a lovely picturesque location overlooking the estuary and, in general, looked well, with well maintained gardens and a small area of landscaping at the end of the development. However, the grassed area was overgrown and in need of cutting and maintenance. There are some well presented staked silver birch trees in this grassed area and these would look so much better, if the grass was under control.

Houses on the road to Loughill Cemetery and on the Ballyhahill Road were generally well landscaped and maintained.

New houses on the approach from Glin looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Glin, with the nice picnic area, offered a nice restful area with some picnic benches and well cut grassed area. The litter bin needed to be emptied. The protective height restriction frame needed painting. The grassed areas on both sides of the approaches to the Church looked well maintained.

Signs in the area were generally in good condition.

General Impression:

Well done on your efforts this year to present Loughill as a lovely, attractive place to spend some leisure time, live and work. We enjoyed our visit on a nice June day and look forward to future visits to this tranquil village overlooking the Shannon.