

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Upper Tournafulla** Ref: **471**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Tournafulla to the National 2009 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the completed Entry Form on behalf of the TidyTowns Association, with the accompanying literature including: Sketch Map, report on 2008 and 2009 circular to all residents and businesses in the district, Report on Tournafulla for Today & Plans for the Future of the Village 2009-2018, Correspondence, and Note on Ballycommane Waterfall-Ballycommane Ongoing 2008-2013.

Your entry is very worthwhile on behalf of your small village of less than 200 people. Tournafulla is located in west Limerick, in lovely picturesque countryside that in itself has not changed, but how the skyline has so dramatically altered in recent years with the construction on the nearby hills of 21st century technology driven wind turbines.

Your committee of 8-10 deserves credit for your planning process and for the hard work of quarterly meetings, and for the extraordinary meeting in 2008. Well done on the linkages with partnership organisations, including the County Council and West Limerick Rural Resource Scheme. Your communications strategy is positive, involving public meetings, newsletters, house visits and contact via church and school. Your engagement with the school will prove of much benefit to the future plans of the village, in particular with the experience and expertise of the retired principal teacher available to maximise that benefit.

It might be a thought to consider an involvement in some local festival, which could be used to generate further interest in TidyTowns' activities. A further thought might be for your committee to arrange a visit to some other village or town with greater experience in TidyTowns Competitions over the years, and thus add to your store of knowledge by their experience of Tidy Towns.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Homestead Bar was nice and clean, painted in bright colours and it looked well while approaching from the Newcastle West side.

The site of the "Telecom Eireann" building is in need of some renovation work. The corrugated shed itself is not very attractive, and the boundary wall and gate were in bad need of repair. Not an encouraging welcome sign to the village.

The stone bridge of 1841 looked well, as did the stone sign with the Irish town name of "Tour" visible on the bridge.

The Community Centre Hall looked well, with some nice roses planted in front. The presence of a defibrillator and notice about those volunteers trained to use this vital piece of equipment is good to see on the side of this building; hopefully, it will never have to be used.

The Church holds a commanding position on the elevated position overlooking the roadside and is in very good condition, it appears.

The National School is nicely kept with bright red doors and railings. It is good to see that the Green Flag flying here.

The Garda Station is a nice building, but in need of painting.

P.D. Mulcahy's pub looked well. The Old Village Hall is as appreciated as in need of some renovation.

Fr.McCarthy Terrace looked like a nice area of residences. Many of the other residences and other premise also are in a good state of maintenance.

### **Landscaping:**

The Church grounds were impressive, with nice lawns on the sloping landscape. The adjoining grotto was a nice feature.

In front of the Homestead Bar, the little shrubbery area could do with brightening up with some colourful shrubs, and the old yellow water pump needs a coat of paint.

Individual houses had nice displays of landscaping, with a nice narrow grass area on the road side, above the GAA pitch. Some nice individual areas of landscaping along the grassed area, which is understood, will be increased to a longer area in the next period of the plan. It's appreciated that every effort is being made by the residents to improve the landscaping throughout the village.

The "Our Peace to Share" green space was a nice feature, with old tyres being used for flower planting, and shrubberies to the rear. The willow hedge seems to be maturing well.

The sculpture and landscaping at Harry's Cross are to be admired and the beech hedge will mature into a wonderful habitat for birdlife and other indigenous wildlife over the seasons and the years to come. This is a great species for rural countryside, as its colour changes with the seasons from soft green in May to rustic bronze in late autumn. The blackthorn/whitethorn/hawthorn hedge will also mature into a nice landscaping feature.

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

The GAA grounds were well presented, with nicely painted green and black railings over a new stone wall. The clubhouse looked well, and the whole site situated in front of the backdrop of the nearby wind turbines left a lasting positive impression.

Your ongoing work on the feasibility of reopening the original Tournafulla road is all positive and we wish you well on the project, in addition to the work at Tour Bridge site and the river walk. The Ballycommane development will benefit the residents of the village.

Your report on the increase in the sightings of birdlife and butterflies late last year is encouraging, and a testimony to your work on the creation of an appropriate environment.

**Litter Control:**

A nice new litter bin was in evidence at the rock chapel junction. The village was generally in a tidy condition on the day of our visit.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Five bottle bank recycling units were seen in the Community Centre car park, and were in a relatively good condition,

It was great to see the Green Flag flying proudly over the school grounds, well done to all concerned.

**Tidiness:**

The nice new footpaths on the road from the church to the school are good to see, and the new street lamps are in good condition.

On the road overlooking the GAA pitch, overhead wires spoiled the appearance somewhat. While it is accepted that it may prove difficult, the idea of having these wires placed underground might form part of your long term plans. The same can be said for wires around the school and throughout the village.

Your clean-up campaign on the washing of the signs, the bridges and road nameplates is to be admired. The rebuild of Mahoney's bridge is an attractive feature. Your developments of the Goalpost wall is a positive feature as well.

**Residential Areas:**

The scheme of five new well constructed Local Authority houses looks well. The issue of derelict, unused cottages is being addressed, but needs to be completed as soon as possible. Your innovative and "green" approach to grass cutting by Mr. Billy Goat is a positive solution to maintenance of derelict sites.

In general, homes and residences were well presented. Well done to all involved.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach road at Harry's Cross, from the Newcastle West, had a nice feature of a new stone Fáilte sign, with a fiddle, hurley and castle featured on the sign. The grass verges were well trimmed, and it was obvious that this was being done regularly/recently.

The Limerick County Council Fáilte signs to the village are in good condition and looked well in Irish and English

**General Impression:**

Thank you to the Tournafulla TidyTowns Committee, the residents and business people of the village for the great efforts you have made this year for the competition. Not alone will these help in the points being awarded, but will of course improve the quality of life for all in Tournafulla. Your medium to long term plans will obviously take time to mature into actual projects on the ground, but your hard work is appreciated by this adjudicator. I enjoyed my first visit to your lovely part of County Limerick. One possible suggestion for your Committee is to visit other villages or towns with more experience in the TidyTowns initiative, and learn by discussing their experience over the past years. Keep up the good work. Well done to all