

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherlahan** Ref: **632**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	22
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Boherlahan for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the town, which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition, is a great help to the adjudicator. The photos, the description of the work you are undertaking and the expression of your frustrations in attempting to enhance the appearance and quality of life in Boherlahan are a great help in familiarising one, before visiting your village. You appear to have an active committee. The community must appreciate the work you do, if the Church gate collection is worthwhile. Your meeting with the Public Awareness Officer is noteworthy. Next year, you might expand on this topic: what agenda was there for the meeting; in what way did it assist your work; has there been an outcome from the meeting? Glad to see that you are actively involved with the school. As regards your disappointment with the floral beauty of Boherlahan not being given due recognition, the adjudicator will do his best to redress the problem!

The Built Environment:

Boherlahan is fortunate in that, it possesses a heritage Church of the stature of Bianconi Church. Both park and Church are presented proudly. Other key buildings in the village are the present Church, which looks majestic set back from the road, Scoil San Isadóir, the community hall so nicely adorned. The local shopkeepers ensure that the modern building does not detract from the traditional village scape. It is a pity that Hennessy's should be unoccupied, but it still adds to the village atmosphere. One looks forward to having invited access to the ring fort, an important part of the heritage of Boherlahan. The parish pump is also a cherished feature of your heritage. Well done on its maintenance, although the area around was a bit shabby.

Landscaping:

When one arrives from Cashel, one is immediately impressed with the landscaping all along the way to the village centre. Then at the shop, one notices further colour, some from inside the wall, more from the shrubbery at the shop. On again and the Church car park is the landscaping highlight. What could be a bland car park is made interesting by the colourful beds. There are many challenges to your committee. Previous generations of Tidy Towns Committees attempted to bring life to the long, boring block walls by inseting beds in the wall or growing ivy and cotoneaster. Those beds need your attention now. Further efforts to camouflage the block would reap results in a few years.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your wildlife area is developing well and is also a landscaping feature. This adjudicator would echo the suggestions of last year's report. For instance, what birds frequent Boherlahan, at which times of the year are they present, what are their feeding requirements? What of the butterflies? One sees a feeding box, very good in a symbolic way. What birds use it? This background material is most important, so that your efforts are relevant.

Litter Control:

The village has very little litter evident. Well done on the National Spring Clean. The village has a neat, tidy appearance, but there is litter in some of the estates. Next year, you might include in your submission the measures you are taking to reduce litter in the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the Bring Bank. Delighted to read that the school has joined the Green Flag programme. No green flag was noticed, so one wonders has that status been granted as of yet. Pursuit of Green Flag Status is a worthy aim. Well done on the shredding and the waste reduction initiatives. You seem to be coming to terms with the aims of this section.

Tidiness:

One can imagine that traffic on that wide stretch of roadway could at times be unaware of the needs of the local village community. Therefore, the traffic lights at the school are a necessity. Is there a need for further traffic calming measures? The main road presents itself neatly. The problem is with some of the unfinished estates. One hopes that pressure can be brought to bear on developers and that the new residents can be coaxed into your mentality, and desire for a better place in which to live. An advantage of the new estates is that many cables have disappeared underground.

Residential Areas:

A number of years ago Boherlahan was a village of quaint, cosy cottages, for the most part. These cottages still play an important role in maintaining the ethos of the village. The needs of the Celtic Tiger offered a prospect of renewal for the village. To some extent that has been achieved. Wide Meadows is a fine development, attractive entrance, colourful landscaping, good planting, adequate open space. Regrettably, the other new estates have not fulfilled on the promise. Some have been left in a wickered state for the village and for the people who occupy the few houses. One hopes that this situation will not last forever.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Arrival from Cashel is a joy, described above. Arrival from Thurles is not as dramatic and could be. This approach road needs your attention. Even the bed at the sign could do with a bit of tender, loving care. More mention should be made of the Ardmayle approach road, as the houses here enhance the village experience with their variety of frontages, all affectionately tended.

General Impression:

Boherlahan needs the attention that your committee bestow on it. There are problems, mainly with the residential side of things. Try to get some of the new residents on board to assist you. It is very clear that Tidy Towns Committees down the years have made a sizeable contribution to the enhancement of the appearance of Boherlahan. Long may this influence continue.

