

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hollyford** Ref: **537**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Hollyford TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, for your comprehensive plan for Hollyford and for your map. This adjudicator would prefer the hand drawn sketch of the town, which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns adjudication. Your presentation of your entry form is at the same time attractive and easy to follow, neither 'messy' nor 'illegible'. It is clear from the contents of your submission that this is a committee who are proud of their village and willing to work with whoever can provide assistance for the betterment of Hollyford. You engage with the influential agencies who can help you, you keep the community informed as to your intentions and you involve the school. All admirable.

The Built Environment:

There are a number of focal points in Hollyford, one centred at the junction, another at the Church. For long distances in the village, there is no building, long stretches of road and hillside connecting the different parts. Another feature of the Hollyford is the major visual impact of various enterprises on the image of the village: the saw mills, the builders providers, the garage. All of these enterprises make a valuable contribution to life in Hollyford. And there are fine buildings to be seen also. Both, school and Church, are impressive. The traditional design of the school is rare nowadays. Wonderful work is ongoing at the cemetery. The Community Centre is a fine building, but the more modern design of the Credit Union building is rendered shabby for the want of a power hose or a paint brush. The area around the bridge illustrates the high visual standard that can be achieved by Hollyford. The grotto is also part of your more recent heritage and makes most impressive use of the natural cliff face. The dumping of the heap of sand, the presence of the barrel and the crates do a disservice to the creators of this area of reverence. Jimmy Ryan Rues is also attractive. In time, the sewerage works will be camouflaged with appropriate landscaping. What must once have been a forge is now an

unofficial museum piece of increasing value, as the years go by. The thatched cottage also brings the past into our modern experience and long may it last. Respect for the past is also expressed in the treatment of the village pump, now ablaze with summer colour.

Landscaping:

On arrival in Hollyford, one meets the Hollyford sign in raised beds. These beds need some summer colour to add brightness to their surroundings. It is a pity that the fine raised beds in the handball alley still await summer colour. The area along the river is a joy, as is the work done at the memorial park. A bridge going nowhere, just for show, adds greatly to the design of that park. Maintenance is superb here. Colour lovely. The landscaping at some houses is breathtaking, especially on the road down the hill from the Church to the memorial park, and also on the roadside near the saw mills. Give plenty of thought to what plants you grow at the sewerage works. Think of birds and bees welfare, as well as colour and camouflage.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your aim to keep the river free of effluent and debris is praiseworthy. As regards the bird table at the millennium garden, what birds frequent the area, is the table suitable for those birds? Last year's report mentioned an ecological survey. An amenity walk was mentioned in last year's report, but not in this submission. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter in evidence throughout the long stretch of village, a great achievement given the area to be covered and the amount of passing traffic. But the achievement comes about from your hard work. The emphasis in the litter section is not just on collecting and organising clean-ups. These are important, but creating awareness of litter reduction is equally important. As you say, the cost of collection is prohibitive. As a next step in your fight against litter, make reduction your key ambition. Consult with the school and enlist its support.

Waste Minimisation:

The collection of the batteries and old mobile phones are worthwhile projects. The solar powered school sign is a waste minimisation scheme. It is a major step that the school is pursuing Green Flag Status. Try to differentiate between waste minimisation and litter collection, and reduction. The emphasis in this section is on minimisation, not collection of waste. Some members of your group might study the recommendations in the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate waste minimisation projects.

Tidiness:

The biggest negative issue on the visit for this adjudicator is the road surfacing. Too often the road surface needs attention. Your wish list includes the resurfacing of the handball alley area. A worthwhile project. Also many of the road signs need to be looked after. Not so the sign for Eamonn a'Chnoic, the Cromlech and the Multeen River stone. Lovely designs, well maintained. These signs add to the surrounding beauty and the sense of care. Not so the condition of the railings at the bridge.

Residential Areas:

There are many beautiful houses in Hollyford, many relatively new, others new and there are others dating back to as early as last century. A glorious mix. The village is fortunate that it still has a thatched cottage with a period gate. The two semi detached bungalows near the saw mills look well also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The stretches of road from the grotto to the village centre or from the school to the Church and back to the Millennium Garden are too long to be maintained in a manicured manner. With such wildlife possibilities one wonders at the advisability of doing so anyway. Footpaths, as you propose, along these stretches would not only enhance the appearance of these stretches, but also promote safety for pedestrians. When one arrives from the Cappawhite direction, the heart lifts with the riverside garden and the majestic grotto. From there to the village, the verges grow wild and that is fine, as long as this philosophy remains the norm. Treatment of road signage is an issue throughout, apart from the lovely Multeen River stone and the Eamon A'Chnoic heritage sign. The County Council needs to be approached about the maintenance of these signs.

General Impression:

There are so many 'cnoic' around Hollyford that we do not doubt that Eamonn A'Chnoic came from here. Committees down the years have worked well to give Hollyford its pleasant appearance. Hollyford is fortunate in that it possesses thriving businesses, but these enterprises do not always enhance the appearance of the village. At least, you are making plans in this regard, but undoubtedly a sensitive issue. Continue to maintain what is good, to beautify what can be prettied and to promote good practice in waste minimisation, and in wildlife.