

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Marlfield** Ref: **592**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **252**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Marlfield Village for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. As you do not indicate the numbers involved on a committee, one wonders is Marlfield depending on one person to enter it in the TidyTowns Competition. Who attends the monthly meetings? There has been and still is so much infra structural upheaval in Marlfield in recent years, that genuine engagement with the agencies who influence the shape of our village is most important. Hence engagement with South Tipperary County Council is crucial and continues to be so. You keep your fellow Marlfield dwellers informed, as to your plans and activities, suggesting that there is support for TidyTowns in Marlfield and that this is not a one man band. Well done on your contact with the relevant schools. In your submission, there are no comments in the built environment or landscaping sections and one is left wondering why not. Your submission swings from deep frustration to cheery satisfaction and pride, sentiments that mirror the range on a satisfaction scale a TidyTowns Committee might experience with present day Marlfield. Hopefully, the causes of your frustration will ease with time and progress.

The Built Environment:

So often the built environment of a village is part defined by its church, school, a shop and local amenity buildings. Not so with Marlfield. Except for the church, which is at a remove from the village centre, these buildings do not exist in Marlfield. Houses on the main road are for the most part secluded. If one is bold enough to venture up Pond Side, the no 'through road' is inclined to deter one, one is handsomely repaid for the houses along here are beautiful in design, colour and maintenance. There are a number of period houses, again not easily accessible, but if one travels down to Marlfield House, one is richly repaid. The houses on the main road compliment their lush surroundings. The memorial plaque to your two soldiers is tasteful and well maintained. It becomes evident that this village is very much a dormitory village. The GAA pitch is a signal that there is a local community here. The highlight of the visit, from a built environment perspective, was the

discovery of St Patrick's Well.

Landscaping:

Marlfield has been blessed with rich natural landscaping that has developed over the years. The mountains and trees are like a Gilbert and Sullivan backdrop. The lake is a hidden gem, but there has been work done over the years, especially along by the lake which allows the visitor to sit and gaze. Your plans to refurbish the lake area are welcome. The shrubbery near Mountain View needs a hand.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marlfield is a wildlife reserve. Much work has been done as is evident from the wildlife board by the lake. Your work at Glenbawn is an appropriate amenity to the local community and also to the people of Clonmel. Even the adjudicator enjoyed the trek. It is clear that a lot of planning and preparation has brought this project to its advanced state. Entering this project for the Biodiversity Award illustrates the pride you feel in a job well done. Your submission did not list the number on your committee and one is, therefore, reluctant to state that this is a first step. There is only so much work a small group of people can undertake.

Litter Control:

Generally, litter is not a problem in most areas. One understands your frustration at the disgraceful dumping at the Bring Bank. The fact that the bank is sited beside an amenity area frequented by people, not necessarily from Marlfield, may contribute to the problem. Is it possible to find a new location which would be more community orientated? There was also some litter in the estate. One noticed that bins have not been installed at the looped walk, yet but one also noticed no littering. St Patrick's Well site also needs those bins or some alternative to just discarding.

Waste Minimisation:

It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control, but on minimising waste in your community. You have your Bring Bank, a step forward, but waste elimination is the key focus in this section.

Tidiness:

One notes from last year's report that the Eircom box should be removed. This adjudicator could not find it, so well done. There was a suggestion in that report that the Perspex be replaced on the wonderful painted map. A worthwhile suggestion. There is much that is wilderness in Marlfield and that is good. But the length of the grass on the verges of the road and the mould on the signpost to the church created an unkempt image, which is unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of Marlfield are a joy. Pond Side has already been referred to. The cottages at the foot of the hill give a quaint appearance to the area. The red brick houses enhance the side of that hill, as does the estate at Mountain View. Another feature of the area is the grand entrances to the manor houses. Even the water pump, so respectfully painted, creates a homely feel.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You state in your submission that you have no plans in this section for the year due to the flood works and you state that the area near the roundabout is in the process of being completed. These are areas over which you have no control. There is a long stretch of road through the village which would benefit from your attention. All of the feed roads off that main road are a joy in their natural beauty and maintenance. The footpaths throughout are an invitation to get out and walk. The design of the street lamps and the ivy clad walls are in keeping with their august surroundings.

General Impression:

Marfield is an area of natural beauty and grace. Your pride in your achievement at the Fox Covert is well deserved. Human habitation in the area enhances the aesthetic experience. But visitation to both, the river and the lake, impacts grossly on this idyllic spot. Your new looped walks will invite further numbers of visitors. Herein, lies a major challenge for Marfield Village Association. One could not but notice that traffic passing through pays scant regard to the speed limit. Another challenge.