

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tinahely** Ref: **245**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **243**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>243</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your completed application with photos, handdrawn map, and 3-year plan. Thanks also for copies of circulars to residents and info sheets on the TidyTowns activities. All go towards illustrating the importance of the TidyTowns competition to Tinahely and the efforts that are going in to improving your town. There is a strong positive energy evident here, perhaps an example of how success breeds success. The 3 – year plan shows a clear vision of where you want to go. Next year please submit a review of progress. A rolling 3 to 5 year plan would be a good idea eventually, submitted each year as planned projects with target timescales, with lead partners responsible, and outline indicative costs. Not to take from what's already been done, it's great work. Long may it continue!

You are fortunate to have the Fas staff doing such a good job, and that the committee's volunteers are growing in numbers is terrific. It is commendable also that there are partnerships with Uplands council, Tinahely Area Development, Wicklow County Council and others.

### **The Built Environment:**

Tinahely is a beautiful village centred on a triangular market square, with a prominent markethouse standing proud amongst the hustle and bustle of daily village life. The old church was admired, as was the courthouse arts centre, although it could do with a washing of its walls. Many shopfronts were excellent in presentation including Wild honey, Madeleines Bn'B, Murphys, Connor's and of course Symes old fashioned frontage. The blue and red side by side take aways look well. The new business centre is clean and modern however the colour has to be questioned. This complex could benefit from foliage or planters of some kind for it to settle more easily into the surroundings. What is the plan for the large old industrial building that can be seen across the river? The Primary school and gardens look well.

### **Landscaping:**

The new landscaping and lovely yellow pump near Pound Lane was noted. They have gorgeous views over River Derry valley from this end of village. The new estate has a stone sign but no engraving yet, this will be nice when finished. The yellow pump near the Railway walk was also noted, as are your plans to build a stone wall here. There are lovely plantings and beds throughout with some wild areas left for habitat enhancement.

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

The Railway Walk is a true treasure and well done for all the effort and partnership working this must have required. I wished I'd had time to take a stroll along it, but that will have to wait 'til another day. That's a great plan to join it up to the Wicklow Way. The interpretive signs are also excellent.

That is a big undertaking to create an access link to the river but one which sounds worthwhile. There should be access to the river from the village as it is an important central feature. The walks here will be an excellent amenities, particularly if you manage to link up with other trails as planned. Please ensure not to remove any bankside trees unnecessarily as this provides stability as well as habitat, and disturbance releases sediment into the water. If you haven't done so be sure to get expert advice on working near watercourses.

### **Litter Control:**

The Bring Banks up at the GAA club are well positioned as there is plenty space and car parking, but unfortunately there was some dumping. They were large white bags, is the clothing bank being emptied often enough? This area would be much enhanced by some paintings by the Green-School students across the road. The whole wall in fact would be delightful as a mural. Many ideas could be put forward for use of this space as it has great potential.

There was no litter visible in the core village and most of the surroundings, however, there was quite a scattering on a lay-by on the Shillelagh Road and unfortunately some litter at graveyard gate. This included a small amount of domestic refuse dumped. Some anti-litter signs would be good.

The weekly litter patrols and patrols by schools are noted, as was your participation in National Spring Clean.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Great to see the Green flag flying at the national school.

The plans for a community recycling centre are very exciting. Will this be a waste re-use centre as well, so that re-usable items can be swapped or sold? What kind of initiatives are underway for waste prevention (rather than just recycling)? Ideas for future years could include surveying residents on consumer behaviour such as purchasing packaged or loose products, disposable or long-life goods, etc. and about level of home composting? The Green-Schools could help with this as part of their 'Informing and Involving the Wider Community'. It could be tied in with launch of the recycling centre, that there is also an emphasis on prevention and re-use.

Are there figures available on how much is currently recycled in the community, and how much is currently landfilled? If possible to get these, and again the Green-Schools may already have it, it would be useful to monitor the difference the community recycling centre makes in reducing waste.

### **Tidiness:**

Did a good job painting the derelict shop in village square. The derelict buildings at end of Kelly's hill look ok, but would be better if the boards were painted a bright colour. The KARE building may need the front wall painted, especially if the GAA opposite is going to get a new paintjob as well. The small building beside Emo's garage looks quite neglected and there is significant weed growth at the wall. Coogan's hardware has done a good job of fencing and screening. If this could be repeated for some other properties they would be much improved.

On approaching Main St there is quite a bit of weed growth at kerbs in front of houses. Posts with signs missing were seen on the road to Railway Park. The church walls, old and new look very smart and must have been repaired as no broken bits seen, however there were a lot of weeds at base of walls, which is noticed more on such a prominent building.

Overall quite tidy in the village itself.

**Residential Areas:**

Holt Crescent looks well, with its welcoming entrance sign and tribute to general holt. Nice entrance flower bed at Derry Drive. Barton St houses are lovely colours, but they look due another coat. The houses on Main St are all very well presented and it's a credit to all for taking pride in their village. There were some lovely baskets and tubs on display and it was a pleasure to enter the village on this road.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approaching from Baltinglass, as above, the street was very well presented. From Shillelagh the views across the valley are very good, and there are some nice private houses and gardens here as well. From Aughrim, it is a pleasant approach with neat verges and trees.

**General Impression:**

This village has a good shape and there's a positive energy about it. A few places need tidying up, but there are plans in place to address this. There is a strong emphasis on nature conservation and enhancement in all planned projects which shows they understand what the competition is about, as well as a strong sense of community.