

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinryland** Ref: **47**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **246**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23	24
Litter Control	50	30	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7	8
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>246</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the very concise application completed with map which proved a great asset as this was the adjudicator's first visit to Tinryland even though I was well acquainted with the parish as a football power in Carlow. Thank you also for submitting a simple 3 year plan which was requested in last year's report as it will help to prioritise work over a set period of time. The Committee is very active in engaging with the local community to foster the spirit of TidyTowns and the benefits it can bring to the village. Much good work has been undertaken over the last few years and the relationships that you have built with Carlow County Council and other agencies have proved to be very worthwhile. You are wished well with your quest for Leader funding in 2012 although you did not mention the nature of the project that this funding is being sought for. Communicating your message to the local community is important and you should consider additional modern methods such as part of a village website or the use of social network sites.

There is good practical involvement with the local school and it only can help children to appreciate their own village and have sense of pride in it. Fundraising will become more difficult as a lot of supporters of various causes are being strapped for cash but it looks like you have a good relationship with local benefactors who have helped you over the years. It was also interesting to note that your fundraising events have local appeal as well as bringing in revenue.

### The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was quite good, buildings were well maintained, and dereliction wasn't a major problem as the village is quite small. Road surfaces and footpaths were in very good condition and it looked as if some upgrading work had been done recent times, the bollards on the footpaths give a nice effect. The following are some of the very positive features that appealed to this adjudicator St Josephs RC Church, grounds and adjoining graveyard, were in splendid condition, complemented by ceramic planters filled with colourful annuals and freshly painted railings. St Joseph's claim to be the first rural church in Ireland to use

electric light primarily due to a local man Paddy Dowling and its really nice to see this event commemorated on the end wall. The Village Hall is an eye catching building as well as being the centre point of parish gatherings. Great credit is due to the people who look after these parish buildings and grounds. The demolition of the ball alley was probably something that older residents felt sad about as it was link to a different era and to a sporting activity that declined in popularity which is mores the pity. Your plans to have the site landscaped are noted and hopefully this will commence in 2012. Is there a possibility of funding from Leader or Local Agenda 21 for this work? The 1798 Commemoration stone at the Carlow North entrance of the village was very impressive and an excellent introduction to Tinryland. The Fr Cullen National School is earmarked for refurbishment as per planning application; it was heartening to see that the old stone building structure will be retained as some of these modern schools look totally out sync in many small villages. Finally, the local GAA Grounds and facilities, especially the walking/running area around the perimeter of the pitch, was one of the best encountered by this adjudicator in his travels.

### **Landscaping:**

The standard of landscaping was good and some fine examples were observed during the adjudication walkabout. The wall hanging baskets on the Village Hall and the boundary wall down further have a visual attractiveness that would appeal to any first time visitor to the village. There is as a small area across from the Church that could be improved upon by putting a simple planting arrangement in place. Maybe some few locals might take it upon themselves to put in some top soil and populate the area with a mixture of low ground cover shrubs and annuals. TidyTown communities in Carlow are very supportive the Delta Training Centre most of them purchase plants and shrubs from the centre and this something that is commendable. The previously mentioned 98 memorial had a nice arrangement to the fore front and the planting arrangements at Dun Na Ri were also admired for colour and good maintenance.

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

The committee has undertaken some very practical steps to promote to develop wildlife habitats in area such as the replacing of damaged shrubs with plants that will attract back various species of wildlife. The reduction in the use of chemical based weed killer is a welcome development and one that should be copied by other centres. Any additional wildlife options in the surrounding locale, such as a designated nature trail, to complement the proposed amenity walk should be considered. Links with the local national school could be developed in the winter period to examine the possibility of putting together the structure for a dedicated wildlife project that would be of benefit to the village. Something on the lines of a wildlife identification notice board would be a start.

### **Litter Control:**

Like many other centres in the county Tinryland has become involved in the Carlow Anti Litter League which can only be a good development for the village. Already one sees the positive effects that this has had in other areas, Tinryland is no different.

Local people seem to have backed this programme by getting out and doing basic work such as regular litter picks, coincidentally some people were out doing that very important task on the evening of adjudication. Keep up the good work of promoting the need for good litter control amongst the community.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Waste Minimisation is an increasingly key area for TidyTowns to add an essential environmental component to its set objectives.

Any small steps such as the production of a very informative leaflet on the reduction of food waste, as you have done, are steps in the right direction. It might be worthwhile if you could organise an information session for the Community and have the County Environmental Officer attend to provide practical advice. Also do continue to consult the 'Race against Waste' booklet, a copy of which you should still have from a few years back. The new compost bin in Dun Na Ri was noted so now people will be able to dispose of grass cuttings in a more environmental friendly way.

### **Tidiness:**

Tidiness is just not about the absence of litter but rather the overall presentation of a village or town under a number of specific categories such as properly maintained boundary walls, unsightly advertising hoardings, broken fencing, dirty signs, excessive weed growth, clutter and obtrusive shop signs. Tinryland does not have any major problem under those headings with the exception of a few boundary walls that need to be repainted. Kerbsides had little or no residue to be seen which an achievement as the village is in the heart of farming country and this is a busy season for silage and hay making. The local farmer who donated a parcel of land for what in essence is a community project is to be praised for his generosity.

### **Residential Areas:**

St Michaels Avenue and the larger St Joseph's Terrace were for the most part well presented, there were one

or two premises and surrounding areas that were a little worse for wear. The Committee needs to offer encouragement to those that haven't bought into the TidyTown movement as of yet and in time they will come round to your way of thinking. Dun Na Ri is a new development that has matured nicely and the low maintenance planting arrangements enhance the immediate area. It was noteworthy that in all estates there was virtual no litter to be seen, the regular litter picks have been successful in making sure that prospective black spots are monitored on a weekly basis.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The entrances in to the villages are quite tight particularly the one in from the 1798 commemoration stone but in an overall context are well maintained. Road surfaces at these extremities are a bit rough but this is something outside the control of any TidyTown Committee and trying get on the resurfacing schedule nowadays could prove to be a very frustrating exercise in the present period of reduced or nonexistent public funding options. Overall the basics such as clean and visible signs and verges cut in accordance with recommended practice for the conservation of wildlife were adhered to. Back areas observed on the entrances into the Village did not stand out for negative reasons and gates and fencing were in quite good condition.

**General Impression:**

Tinryland has made steady progress in the competition over the years and this year you once again have improved your standing.

Well done on what you achieved to date, you are wished well in the years ahead.