

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinryland** Ref: **47**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **247**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	32	34
Landscaping	50	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Litter Control	50	30	29
Tidiness	30	17	18
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>247</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Tinryland is very welcome to the 2012 National TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form along with your annotated map. For future applications use the map to list out particular areas which you would like the adjudicator to visit or point out areas where works have been undertaken during the previous year which you would like us to particularly visit. Tinryland is a small village with a large number of people involved in your committee. Well done! Your 12 member committee have been busy and we hope to see the fruits of their enthusiasm in future years. You should focus attention on developing a 3 or 5 year town plan to help you approach your work in a structured manner and allow you target agencies to get support and advice from, such as FÁS, Carlow County Council, the Tree Council of Ireland and many others. Try to develop projects in each category of the competition in order to gain marks and really advance. You have a lovely village with an enthusiastic community, so we see no reason why you can't do well in the TidyTowns competition. Good luck.

### The Built Environment:

Your village has a lovely mix of new and old and retains a real sense of place and community. The church is the real focus of the village and was very well presented on adjudication day. Thank you for including the before and after photographs of the ball court. What a difference this intervention has made in the setting of the village! It was nice to see that care and attention was taken to match the exciting form and detail of the stone piers when extending the boundary along the site of the removed court.

### Landscaping:

There was lots of seasonal planting in your village including the hanging baskets along the lovely stone wall and on individual homes. The splash of colour in the rose bed by the car park was also an uplifting sight on a

dull summers day!

You could perhaps plan to plant some more trees to create an enhanced landscape setting for the village and on its approaches. A good start is the new beech trees proposed to be planted to the monument at the approach to the village. This long term structure planting may take a while to have an impact but you will be thanked by future generations for investing in native trees. Make sure you have a maintenance programme in place to look after any trees recently planted. Ensure any planting planned as part of the new tennis club project has an emphasis on natives and ensure new trees planted are well watered for the first few years of growth until they establish.

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

While we await the amenity area created by the new tennis club development we would encourage you to look at the habitats present in and around the village as a first step. A simple habitat survey will allow you recognise the habitats present and also develop new ones. The village can be divided into several areas or habitat types including gardens, graveyard, open spaces, trees or hedgerows. Each of these areas can then be set a strategy for best management to preserve or increase biodiversity. Perhaps the green area behind the car park, in front of St Josephs Terrace, could be enhanced with native trees or insect habitats as a simple wildlife friendly zone? The gaps to the car park hedge here could be filled with native hawthorn or perhaps wild roses to complement the nearby bed of cultivated roses? This is another area where some forward planning can begin to gain you marks. Well done in moving away from chemical weed control, a really practical step for you to take.

### **Litter Control:**

Good luck with your regular litter picks. The bin at the trail sign at the entrance to St Martins Avenue was full, so ensure this bin is part of your regular route. Also unfortunately there was some litter noted at the sculpture within the open space at Dún na Rí.

### **Tidiness:**

The removal of the ball court and addressing the litter black spot by the school in a proactive way has done much to improve the appearance of the village. The building works at the tennis court site should be complete for next year's adjudication and we look forward to seeing this development add to the assets of the town and improve boundaries in this area. The wildlife sign at the car park needs updating and perhaps a paving slab or two could be placed at the base of this to allow an area of firm dry ground for people viewing the sign.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done in using unwanted gifts to help raise funds for your works. Such a practical way to address this category! Are your schools taking part in the Green Schools Scheme? This programme is a great way to encourage the children to think about waste and green issues and of course they then bring ideas home with them and it can spread new waste minimisation practices through the community. Other simple ways to advance in this category is to encourage your community's participation in, for example, Earth Hour or Cycle Week, nationally promoted programmes that you could take part in. National Tree Week is another national event you can look into and participate in.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of presentation of both individual houses and estates in the village is good with an obvious commitment to keep the communal open spaces and garden areas neat and tidy. Well done all the residents. The open spaces however at Dún na Rí needed some attention. If the grass areas here are difficult to maintain, consider leaving some areas as meadow grass to cut down on the mowing required. The new planting to the base of the wall on the long approach to the estate will look lovely as it fills out. We noted the granite stones to the front of St Josephs, they were just awaiting the names to be added.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The verges on the approaches were cut and road surfaces good with a nice paved area at the car park with car spaces clearing lined. Ensure all road signs are kept clean especially where they are beneath braches. We felt the signage indicating the speed ramps was slightly excessive and wondered why they had been used here, as speed ramps in other villages did not seem to have such an amount of associated signage. The cantilevered sign by the lovely stone wall was especially complex? Would markings on the road surface here not suffice and be less visually intrusive? There were also a number of old road sign poles with no signs which could be removed.

### **General Impression:**

We hope that the involvement in the competition will be a great motivator for the whole community. Well done

to all involved in this years submission and we wish you continued good luck in the competition.