

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Anglesborough**

Ref: **2073**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **257**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **14/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	35	37
The Built Environment	50	34	36
Landscaping	50	34	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Litter Control	50	35	36
Tidiness	30	20	21
Waste Minimisation	20	4	5
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	245	257

Overall Development Approach:

Anglesborough is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns contest. Many thanks for your clearly presented entry form, series of maps and additional photos. Photos are particularly valuable in showing a before and after scenario and for giving an indication of the level of support you have received for a particular project. You seem to have a lot of support and reading through your application form the adjudicator cannot help but be bowled over with the sense of drive, energy and willingness to get things done. Well done, and this only your second year in Tidy Towns! You have made a range of contacts with local businesses and other agencies and this is wonderful work. They have already proven their worth in terms of funding and other practical support. You also have a range of communication tools at your disposal and these are all valuable in reaching out to the community as a whole. Maintaining this level of overreach would be an important element of your work in the years to come.

Last year it was suggested that you prepare three-year plan. You went halfway by listing projects completed, and to be done, in your application form. A three-year plan would remove these from the application form and, in the first instance, take a look at the overall context and history of your village. It would set achievable targets, which in many cases you have already done, but by setting firm dates it raises your chances of success. Do take a look at the Tidy Towns Handbook as it is full of useful information and tips in this area.

Finally it is great to read that you engage so enthusiastically with your school. Does it have a green flag? If not this would be a most worthwhile endeavour. You could start by contacting An Taisce which runs the project.

The Built Environment:

You have been forensic in analysing last year's report suggesting improvements and the way in which you

have tackled these is most impressive. Well done! In relation to problem areas do be patient but acknowledge that some things you are not able to change. You must reserve your energies are those things that you can do something about.

The hall is a rather drab building but considerably livened up by the extensive flower decorations. The creamery building is looking well and no doubt much improved following your paint job. The interpretive panels are really interesting and well presented and creative point of focus in this location.

The church is looking well with neatly maintained grounds. Some flags in the poles here would add colour and movement to the scene. The Galtee pub shows how effective flags can be. The stonebridge is a wonderful heritage feature that arguably does not require additional decoration. Do allow the walls distinctive flora to emerge (moss, lichens etc) as there is no need to be concerned with 'cleaning'. Lane's shop is very neat and tidy while the monkey puzzle tree here is a fine feature. The old farm buildings add additional character.

The school is a beautiful building and very well painted in lime green.

Landscaping:

Angelsborough has all the landscaping that the village could possibly want, being nestled on the shoulders of the Galtee mountains. Tall trees add greatly to the landscape character within the village and in this regard you are quite well endowed. It is also encouraging on this note to read that you have had a number of tree planting projects. Do try to use native species as much as possible (e.g. beech is not native) while planting hawthorn hedges is always to be welcomed.

More formal planting displays can of course also be effective and these work best when screening walls or softening an otherwise hard feature. This has been done to great effect along the wall between the hall and the creamery. The variety of colours and forms here is delightful.

You suggest scattering wildflower seeds on approach roads but this adjudicator views planting wildflowers is a contradiction in terms. Much better to allow the plants that are there to express themselves, even if they are grass is but it is likely that there will be some broadleaved flowers as well. You know they will last and are suited to that location.

The memorial to the war of independence is very cleanly maintained and the milk urns and flower display here are stunning. More tasteful displays were admired at the school entrance with the choice of birch trees being most appropriate.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are well on your way to having a comprehensive approach to this category. First and foremost this area is trying to get communities to create greater awareness of the nature in your surroundings. In this context your walking club, the dawn chorus and the school's butterfly garden are all ideal. Are the Galtee mountains a special area of conservation? (Check on www.npws.ie) . You may be able to get your local NPWS Ranger to lead a walk to explain the issues around upland conservation. The range of activities running with the school is exciting and no doubt the students like to get their hands dirty. You are most fortunate to have the looped walk at your disposal and your heritage booklet will be a nice complement to this. Best of luck with your wildlife survey and we look forward to reviewing this in due course.

Litter Control:

Well done to the winners of the antilitter poster contest, we would have liked to have seen the winning entries. Your approach of having litter pickups before and after major events is excellent and clearly if you are getting upwards of 30 people participating it is working for you. You are also commended for taking part in the national spring clean.

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day and no litter was observed by this adjudicator, well done !

Tidiness:

You have been very busy in this category since the last adjudication and have been diligent in completing suggested tasks. Your contacts with Limerick county council regarding signage are noted and it would seem that progress is being made.

Having blitzed all the issues in the last year this paragraph is necessarily brief due to the lack of items of concern falling under the tidiness heading.

Waste Minimisation:

One of the most important things that could be achieved in this category would be for the school to work towards a green flag. The first green flag is in waste minimisation so they will apply lots of new ideas. Composting is really important and it is great to read you are making progress here. Do you think most people in the village compost their organic waste? If not are there additional workshops that could be held? A 'bring and buy' could raise money for the group while also finding new homes for unwanted items. Having access to general recycling facilities is also important so do give an update here in 2013.

Residential Areas:

While having only a small stock of houses each manages to express its own character and style. The home of William Condon was particularly admired for its sandstone masonry and attractive garden. Galtee view is another wonderful cluster of structures that seems to speak straight from the past.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your new village nameplates were admired on entry to the village and certainly this year all hedges were nicely trimmed back.

General Impression:

Angelsborough was a delight to visit (despite the horrendous weather!) And proof that even very small villages can make big changes under all headings of the contest. You have made great strides in only your first full year, perhaps you need to think big for the years ahead. Best of luck
!