

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athea** Ref: **961**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **202**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	29
The Built Environment	50	0	31
Landscaping	50	0	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	28
Tidiness	30	0	15
Waste Minimisation	20	0	0
Residential Areas	40	0	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	30
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	202

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Athea back to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. It is great to have you back as part of the TidyTowns family that this year has about 840 entries. Your new Committee of eleven is large and marks a very good start. Your meetings schedule is a very busy one and the committee has excellent community representation. Getting a representative of each estate on to the Committee would be a great move. It was encouraging to read of the very good community and agency support that you have achieved in a very short time. Well done on getting the preparation of 5 Year TidyTowns Plan under way and using the ten adjudication categories as a framework is suggested.

The Built Environment:

Your future plans under this category are excellent and well thought out. It was interesting to read that 'The Quiet Man' was written in Athea. How are you getting on with your proposal for the Lets Colour Scheme with Dulux? Your plans for a local competition are commended and it is suggested that the prizes are vouchers from a Garden Centre rather than cash awards. It is great to hear that the School extension has been completed. In respect of closed properties low cost cosmetic treatment is suggested. Attractive landscaping was admired to the front of the Church giving an overall pleasing presentation. At Griffin good hand lettering caught the eye and the same applied at the Sean McGearailt premises where at least one gable needed to be painted. Apart from some weed growth good presentation was noted at the Hall. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role.

Landscaping:

The recent planting of native Beech trees is welcomed and do make sure that only native Irish trees and shrubs are planted in the future. In terms of planting it is important to consider the benefits of planting for year round colour and textures. Attractive planting stood out at the river bridge as did the raised gravel bed along the Glin road. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. The Garden was visited and is indeed impressive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans under this category for the future are ambitious but achievable. Work on the Bee is interesting and hopefully the wildlife survey will proceed. Do remember that all aspects of wildlife should be included. On completion of the survey the next logical step would be to consider interpretation and perhaps a Wildlife Trail.

Litter Control:

FAS and the volunteers are obviously doing a good job with the weekly litter patrols. Litter control was generally quite good. However litter was noted in the estate in the centre of the village inside the entrance on the right under the trees. The Bring Centre is excellently screened. Is it not a little far out of Athea for local convenience? Litter was also noted at the start of the Glin road on the left hand side.

Tidiness:

Your work on weed control was noted from your entry form and generally weed control in the village was quite good. At the Carnegie Library the roadside railings should be painted a bright colour, perhaps red or blue. It is suggested that field gates are painted a common colour in partnership with landowners. In consultation with the Local Engineer perhaps all sign poles could be painted matt black. A few damaged signs were noted that will need replacement.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is fundamentally about the reduction of the annual waste generated in Athea. With this in mind a simple local survey is suggested that should include the School, Church, Hall, other public buildings and the business community to see what if any waste reduction measures are in place. Following from the survey steps to reduce waste production should follow on a systematic basis. Good luck to the School as they start the highly valuable Green Flag process.

Residential Areas:

Throughout Athea some very individual presentations were admired; some good painting and landscaping caught the eye. Beside the Betting Office on the Abbeyfeale road a gable needed to be repainted. The Voluntary Housing was visited and the presentation there was fine. At Markievicz Place a little tidy up towards the end of the estate is necessary. Grass needed to be cut and a seat treated at Saint Bartholomew's Villas. Galeside was presented in a tidy fashion and the field gate here could be painted green.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Extensive road resurfacing was noted throughout the village and an excellent job has been done by Limerick County Council. The bilingual townland signs project is welcomed and commended; this is such an important aspect of local history. Your plans for work on approach roads are sound and will make a difference. On the Moyvane approach banks needed to be cut at the right time of the year, and some weed growth at the base of walls was evident. Stone walls on the Listowel approach caught the eye.

General Impression:

It is really good to have Athea back in the Competition. Your future plans for the village are exciting, ambitious and necessary. Good luck in the year ahead and we look forward to returning to Athea in 2013.