

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappamore** Ref: **1079**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **203**
Category: **C** Date(s): **11/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	50	28	30
Landscaping	50	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15	15
Litter Control	50	24	24
Tidiness	30	16	17
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	197	203

Overall Development Approach:

Cappamore is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form detailing work you have done and your future plans. It is encouraging that you plan to produce a three-year plan and we very much look forward to reviewing this in 2013. Do make sure you are familiar with the Tidy Towns Handbook as it is full of useful tips and guidance. Your approach to be constantly trying to build on your support base is to be commended and your Tuesday volunteer evenings are a great way to advance this. Do try to get high-vis vests with the Tidy Towns logo across the back so that passers-by know who you are and appreciate what you do. It's important that the wider community is aware of the efforts you are making.

Your use of photos is very welcome and shows how people are enthusiastic and proud of their town. Do make sure to provide captions so we get the full background. Many thanks for your map. You should use this to mark the locations of where projects have taken place this year. The adjudicator is always looking for new work where points can be awarded. You are clearly engaging with a wide range of agencies to advance your projects. This is excellent and your perseverance will ultimately pay dividends.

The Built Environment:

You are addressing problems of dereliction head-on and this is to be commended. As you have identified, it may take some years before the changes you envisage are realised but it will be worth the wait! The character of the town has been largely retained through the conservation of building design and sensitive use of signage. The role of businesses from Ned McNigh, T. O'Dwyer and W. Hayes is particularly attractive. Some older derelict buildings on Moore Street need attention and you should work with Limerick county council and addressing these.

Painting and planting at the old creamery has been very effective, well done! Interestingly the chimney and name plate still exude heritage value.

The Roman Catholic Church looked well decked out in its flags and bunting. The parochial house meanwhile is striking in blue (or is it a green?). The school next door is equally well presented and was proudly flying its green flag. St Michaels community college is very well presented and its grounds are immaculately maintained.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is always best when it is for a year-round effect and if it has some wildlife benefit. In this regard it is great to see a range of mature trees e.g. at the library. The hedgerow at the car park here is also of value but has been damaged by dumping and too much cutting.

Flowers at the grotto add a dash of colour. Elsewhere landscaping was found to be somewhat muted although in a rural setting hedges and trees look better than too many hanging baskets etc. In this regard Cappamore is well endowed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Do consult with the Tidy Towns Handbook on how best to proceed with this topic. The first step is always appreciating what you have before taking any actions. You could contact your local NPWS Ranger or get transition year students to survey the town as a project. Hedgerows, streams and even gardens are all important habitats for plants and animals. Learning to appreciate these can win points under this category without having to do any work on the ground!

The river is a wonderful habitat but has been diminished somewhat by the presence of Japanese knotweed near the bridge. This is a highly invasive species and should be controlled (correctly) where possible. The Mulkear River is part of a special area of conservation and is part of an ongoing EU funded conservation project, this would be great for the community to get involved with (google Mulkear LIFE). The seating area by the river is wonderful.

Litter Control:

This category is as much about how litter is managed as it is to do with how your town appears on adjudication day. Your weekly litter picks are excellent. Are there particular problem areas or issues, e.g. cigarette ends?

Unfortunately on adjudication day the playground was badly littered and took away from this otherwise fine facility.

Some minor dumping was apparent around the bring centre while broken glass and bottle tops needs to be swept. While litter in the town was not particularly bad there was a low level of litter throughout, e.g. drinks cans, sweet wrappers and cigarette ends. Fly-posting is an issue on some lampposts. Something that could easily be resolved.

Tidiness:

Cappamore is generally very tidy with no major issues of note in the town centre. Path surfaces are broadly speaking in good shape while bunting adds colour and movement. In many towns overhead wires have been removed and this dramatically declutters the skyline. While it is not easily done you could write to Electric Ireland to see what can be done. The work at the old creamery has really enhanced the appearance of this corner.

Waste Minimisation:

Do note that litter is a separate issue from waste minimisation. Ireland produces more rubbish per person than any other country in Europe and much of this ends up in landfill. While we are good at recycling this is only fourth in the hierarchy under the waste pyramid. Much of our waste is in the form of packaging and food, perhaps you could hold a workshop on how to address these issues at home and in businesses. The school's green flag is fantastic here and they may have done much of the work for you. See what they have done and find out if there are ways they you can copy them.

Residential Areas:

Well done to your residents Association group for the work they have been doing. Mullally Grove looked well. Turach Crescent looks excellent and landscaping at its entrance was particularly admired. The neighbouring estate also looks well but has no name (Dromsally Woods?). Inse Bui is a charming corner with tall trees and attractive green area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Doon looks well although the village name sign was somewhat concealed.

Homes throughout Cappamore looked very well and adjudication day. Terraced houses on Moore Street were particularly admired. St Michaels Terrace lacks a name plate. The approach from Pallasgreen is beautiful with its stone walls and lush green trees.

The welcome signs on approaches were noted and some were colourfully decorated with flowers. Your calls for proper pedestrian access through town are to be commended as this would enhance the quality-of-life.

General Impression:

Cappamore is set in wonderful countryside and has much to offer. This adjudicator admired your positive spirit and can-do attitude. This will serve you and your community well in years to come. Best of luck!