

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carabullane** Ref: **2147**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **219**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/07/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	31
The Built Environment	50	0	22
Landscaping	50	0	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	18
Litter Control	50	0	26
Tidiness	30	0	19
Waste Minimisation	20	0	5
Residential Areas	40	0	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	27
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	219

Overall Development Approach:

Carrabullawn is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted that you have taken this step. It is hoped that it will help you to galvanise your community and help you meet your aims. You have made an excellent start with a very strong first entry and including a detailed entry form and hand drawn map. This displays in a most effective way your main landmarks and locations of projects upon which you have been working. As you are in an estate it is not the normal unit for entrants so it would be worth considering expanding your area to include your broader neighbourhood, including one or two adjacent estates, along with a communal point of focus, e.g. church, school or shopping centre. You have mentioned that you get support from your local Supervalu so you have already, in a way, made progress on this.

Do feel free to include photos in your application as this can give the adjudicator a vivid impression of events held or problems overcome. You are already liaising with AES and Limerick city council and have made contact with Supervalu, the gardai and the JP McManus fund and this is excellent. While you say you support your local school why not try to get them to participate in a cleanup project or a wildlife survey? While having 6 in your committee is not bad for an area of your size, expanding your boundaries would bring additional manpower and perhaps allow you to take on more challenging projects.

You are urged to refer to a copy of the Tidy Towns Handbook which provides a lot of useful information on what the adjudicator is looking for under each of the headings. Use this to make sure that you describe each project under the appropriate heading. In this way you can maximise the available points that the adjudicator wants to award you.

The Built Environment:

This category examines the presentation of buildings of heritage, municipal or commercial value. As yet you do not have any such areas within your boundary. Expanding your area would have benefit as these areas are also important to your community. It would also help build a sense of civic cohesion in your neighbourhood.

The presentation of residential areas is judged under that heading while planting beds etc are assessed under the landscaping category.

Landscaping:

Well done on maintaining such a fine array of planting displays. The number, and variety of trees, most of which are young, is a most eye-catching feature upon entering Carrabullawn. The new rows of planting is where admired and these will no doubt mature to provide year-round colour in these locations.

The planting beds at the Carrabullawn name stone is very effective but shrubbery does needs to be cut back slightly to ensure that the stone does not become obscured. The effect is good however as plants are substantial and the bed is weed free.

Raised beds in the green area are a bit of a mishmash. A bit weedy while asymmetrical, they just don't seem to have the desired effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your intervention to help stop development on a wetland is superb, well done for this fantastic achievement. For too long wetlands were seen as a waste of space and/or prime development property! Hopefully times are changing so that they can be valued for their biodiversity, beauty and free services such as flood control and water purification. Wetlands are fantastic outdoor laboratories and so great places for projects, perhaps with schools or local naturalists.

The wetland may be part of the lower River Shannon special area of conservation, in which case it would be one of our island's most protected areas for wildlife. You can find out by looking at www.npws.ie. You are also fortunate enough to have a canal and this is an important part of your cultural as well as natural heritage. Why not include some of this area within your boundary? As you say it is a great focus for outdoor activities. Your plans to put up bird boxes are noted and it is good that you are enhancing wildlife in your gardens and common areas.

Litter Control:

Your problems with dog foul are noted and you are wished every success in dealing with this pernicious issue. You described how you do weekly litter patrols and a big cleanup in the summer. This is great. Do you also pay attention to litter in common areas e.g. the canal or wetland walks? How about your nearby shopping centre? Can you get businesses to help those in this location?

Litter control on adjudication day was to a high standard although one or two items were noted on the green. The 'scoop your dogs poop' signs were admired.

Tidiness:

Well done for getting Limerick city council to improve your road markings and installing new road signage.

The estate is very clean and tidy in appearance. Verges are well trimmed and you have no negative issues such as graffiti or fly-posting. Bark mulch was scattered on the road from a nearby landscaping feature however this is a relatively minor issue.

Waste Minimisation:

Do note that this category is distinct from litter control and aims to reduce the volume of waste that is generated at home and at work. While recycling will remain important it is only fourth in preference to prevention, minimisation and re-use. Some initial ideas include putting up no 'junk mail stickers' or distributing your newsletter exclusively by electronic means. Promote home composting by holding a workshop with

Limerick City Council, it would provide material for your planting beds as well as cutting down on waste. You could promote wise shopping and storage of food as much of our food is thrown away.

Well done to the school children for their artwork to highlight the issue of waste minimisation. Is the school involved in the green flag program? This is a wonderful initiative of schools across Ireland as they strive to reduce their environmental impact. The first green flag is for waste minimisation.

Residential Areas:

Your difficulty with having no road signs is not just one of safety but one of identity. You need names to give you a sense of place and interpreting your name, rock of the bull, is an essential part of this. Why not hold a fundraising events to help you on your way? It is most disappointing that your developer has let you down in this regard but you mustn't let it stand in your way.

The first impression of Carrabullawn is one other well-kept area with fine homes. The individual home designs, with red roof tiles and attractive dash finish creates an attractive finish. Boundary walls are in very good order while kerbs are well weeded. Road and footpath surfacing are both excellent.

Grass verges are very well maintained as is the main green area. Homeowners are to be commended for the high standard of presentation of homes throughout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Carrabullawn is well hidden in a residential area off the Corbally road. Your projects to bring in street name plates and signage is most needed and you are wished every success in finding the funds for this.

Your lane to the lake was admired for its lack of litter etc Japanese knotweed is growing here and an attempt should be made to control this. It is an alien invasive species and one of our most unwanted threats to native flora and fauna. This part to the lake would be perfect for nature walks art projects etc.

General Impression:

This is a very strong first entry for Carrabullawn and well done to all concerned for the work that has gone into presenting your estate to such a high standard. You are welcome to continue with your current boundary but expanding this would give you greater scope to build on community spirit and tackle bigger projects. Best of luck!