

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletroy View** Ref: **2067**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **199**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	50	27	27
Landscaping	50	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12	12
Litter Control	50	28	29
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	3	3
Residential Areas	40	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	400	196	199

Overall Development Approach:

Castletroy View is most welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition and you come to us flush from your victory in the community challenge last September. This was a great result for you, well done! You have good momentum behind you for the urban tree project but do ensure that other areas of the contest are not neglected.

You retain 8 on your committee and this is a good number. It can often feel that it's the same few people who do all the work but don't let this get you down. Stay positive and ensure that people know that the door is always open. You are engaged with a range of outside bodies and for this you are commended. You list the GAA but this area is not included within your boundary, could be included for next year? Have you made contact with the managers of the small retail centre on the Blood Mill Road? It would be of benefit to your area to include this area also. Your leaflet was admired and it is noted that you also use e-mail and Facebook as communication tools. Your newspaper clippings were also admired. This range of approaches is excellent and is needed in order to be updating as much of the community as possible. Do make use of photos in your application form and these can be very effective in showing the adjudicator the impact of projects or the level of public participation.

You are encouraged to compile your plans into a three-year plan, details of which can be found in the Tidy Towns Handbook. It would identify actions under all headings and in this way map out your future progress in tidy towns

The Built Environment:

Do make sure your projects are listed under the appropriate headings, your form gives many that are more

wildlife or landscaping in nature.

You have identified a problem with the your unused retail centre and are liaising with the owner. You have also identified your own solution which is encouraging. The smaller shopping centre with Mace and Paddy Power is an attractive and well designed building. Unfortunately it is let down by unsightly metal fencing and neglected landscaping beds.

There is no doubt that your failed retail development is as imposing as it is ugly. Sadly many communities across Ireland have to live with this failed legacy of the Celtic Tiger. You are commended for addressing this in a proactive way and hopefully in time NAMA, or whoever owns it, will pull it down.

Landscaping:

Your urban tree project shows an impressive level of vision and ambition. The collaboration with the Woodland league add an education and biodiversity dimension. Your plans show poplar and lime trees, which are non-native, and so this seems at odds with the stated aims.

Did you take suggestions from last year's adjudicator into consideration?

Planters in the central median are attractive features for this location.

We look forward to returning to see the urban trees project as it starts to take shape.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your urban tree project certainly has promise to create a biodiversity feature for your estate and a nice idea would be to start undertaking surveys for plants and birds and see what changes occur as your project progresses. Hopefully the level of biodiversity will increase. Your events with the Woodland league is excellent for raising awareness of our natural heritage. Could the school be involved in some way? This would seem perfectly suited to art projects etc.

Litter Control:

You indicate that you undertake weekly cleanups and regular litter patrols. Are these prearranged through a roster or are they more ad hoc? You also participate in the national spring clean along with the schoolchildren which is excellent. Do you also get a good volunteer turnout from the wider community? Some photos here would be good to show the impact of what you achieved.

Litter control overall was quite good however a number of items were scattered throughout. Additional patrols would therefore be required to attain the high standard needed in this category.

Tidiness:

The estate is generally very tidy and you have no major issues to contend with. There are some areas for improvement however: an empty pole at the Springfield centre needs to be removed; roadsides within the estate need to be swept of gravel and debris.

Signage is generally in very good order and graffiti is not a problem. Verges are well trimmed throughout and weeds are not evident at kerb edges. Overall the was a high standard observed in this category.

Waste Minimisation:

Note that this category is distinct from litter control. Do you segregate litter when doing cleanups? Do your residents have access to a range of recycling facilities? Recycling is important but is only fourth under the waste pyramid after prevention, minimisation and reuse. Ultimately preventing the generation of waste is the aim here. You could hold a seminar with Limerick City Council to get ideas on how to progress this. You could also carry out a waste survey to see how much waste is generated by your estate. Where does it go? What is it composed of? Answering these questions would allow you to target actions in a meaningful way. There are more ideas in the Tidy Towns Handbook. Home composting would provide you with material for landscaping areas. Promoting freetradeireland.ie would allow people to find new homes for unwanted items.

Residential Areas:

Castletroy View is an attractive cul-de-sac with well presented houses and mature trees. Road surfacing is quite poor however, it is being addressed with Limerick city council engineers?

Windsor Close does not seem to have any nameplates but its homes here are extremely well maintained and presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to Castletroy View is very tidy and verges in particular are very neatly trimmed. There is no name plaque at the entrance and this is a significant omission. The grey, breezeblock wall of the GAA club would greatly benefit from a screen of trees. The range of mature trees along the road margin however create an attractive impression.

General Impression:

Castletroy View has had great success in the past year, winning outright the community challenge award. You have wonderful vision for your area and we look forward to returning next year to see how this on foals for you. Best of luck!