

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Distillery View Estate** Ref: **2070**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **204**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/03/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	50	26	26
Landscaping	50	22	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16	18
Litter Control	50	26	27
Tidiness	30	16	17
Waste Minimisation	20	4	5
Residential Areas	40	25	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	28
General Impression	10	4	5
TOTAL MARK	400	193	204

Overall Development Approach:

Distillery View is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your clearly completed application form and map and we are delighted that you are back for a second adjudication. You have five on your committee and hold meetings every three months. Would you say that everyone in the estate knows about your participation in Tidy Towns? This is important as even if some are unable to actively take part it is vital that all appreciate the efforts you are making. Your positive outlook is admired and that is what Tidy Towns is all about, working with what you have and achieving what you can.

You included a map this year however this could be improved upon. Is there someone with an artistic streak that could hand draw a map? While including all the main landmarks also be sure to highlight the locations of your projects so that the adjudicator can give them the attention they deserve.

It is great that you are engaging with schools in your area and well done to them on attaining their green flags. Have you considered widening the boundary of your area to include, say, the estates around Quarry Road? This may lead to a greater degree of community participation and also involve local businesses.

It is excellent that you have contacts with Limerick city council, Respond and other groups. With an expanded area you could also reach out to sports clubs and social groups, the more the merrier! Have you given any consideration to the suggestion in last year's report and to draw up a three-year plan. This would help you achieve your goals in a systematic way and to break down large tasks into manageable chunks. See the Tidy Towns Handbook for more details.

The Built Environment:

The building style in Distillery View is attractive and your name reflects other users of this land in times gone by. There appears to be an old section of wall at number 36 – 44, does this have any heritage significance?

The community building is looking well and is cleanly painted.

Extending your area would allow you to include other areas of your built environment that could act as focal points for community activity.

Landscaping:

Well done on organising the community planting day and this no doubt was a successful event. Gardening is more popular than ever these days and your planned contest to find the best basket and tub will no doubt spur people on. The variety of hanging baskets around the estate was admired.

The green area was neatly mowed while the small play area was immaculate. The newly planted area outside number 40 adds some colour here although perhaps more could be done e.g. replacing the shrubs with something more effective. Annual flowers tend to be too small to be effective in these situations. Why not consult with Limerick City Council landscaping to see what would be a suitable scheme here.

The derelict site across the entrance to Distillery View would make for a great community garden/vegetable plot, if you could get access to it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You made an excellent decision to leave the hedge on the slope for wildlife. The ivy, elder and brambles here are ideal for nesting birds and insects while also providing a nice visual break. The dead tree is actually good for diversity so don't try to tidy it up.

Along with gardening people love attracting birds to their gardens and this is easily done with hanging feeders. Bird nesting boxes are easy to make out of old pallets and this might provide for a good event. You are very close to the Shannon here and this is a wonderful location for wildlife. Why not contact the NPWS Ranger to organise a guided walk? It is wonderful to have the children involved and the details of your LA 21 projects were read with interest.

Litter Control:

It is great that you have a Tús worker that is helping with the upkeep of your estate. You also hold daily litter picks and this is important in maintaining a high standard. The skip idea is interesting but is it compatible with the waste minimisation objective? Are items in the skip subsequently segregated and recycled?

The estate itself was spotless, well done on attaining this high standard. Quarry Road was not so good so it could be great if you could extend your patrols to this area.

Tidiness:

Distillery View certainly has a very tidy appearance. You do not content with overhead wires that clutter the skyline. Kerbing is weed free and graffiti is not a problem. Lamp poles are intact but slightly graffitied in places, could these be painted? You are commended for your contact with the ESB and Bord Gáis in ensuring that meter boxes are repaired in a timely manner.

A nice project would be to paint the wall opposite the green area as this is quite grey, and a mural here would be perfect (if you get a chance go to see the mural that was done on the bridge in Annacotty).

Waste Minimisation:

As a nation we are now quite good at recycling and the majority of people participate as much as possible. Your skip day has been mentioned, items that could be reused should be posed on freetradeireland.ie to see if a new owner could be found. It's free and easy-to-use. Old wood could be made into bird boxes or planting surrounds. Scrap metal is worth money and could be sold to raise funds. The skip therefore probably does not encourage waste minimisation.

You mentioned elsewhere that you are interested in composting. This is excellent as it can save money,

reduce waste and provide material for landscaping projects. Contact Limerick city council or the Irish peatland conservation Council to see if you could hold a composting workshop.

Your schools have green flags so do consult with them on additional ideas.

Residential Areas:

Your idea to buy some paint and pass it around is excellent. Clearly lots of people took up this offer as doorframes were looking smart on adjudication day. It would be great to adapt a similar approach to painting whole houses. Homes however are in good shape and were presented to a high standard on adjudication day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Including Quarry Road within your boundary area would be of benefit. Within the estate the attractive black name plates were admired against the natural stone walls. These looked really well and add variety and character. Grass was neatly trimmed on verges and path surfaces are in good order. Minor dumping at the top of the sloped area was in evidence e.g. a metal fence. There was also dumping of green waste next to the community building and ideally this should be composted.

Unfortunately the estate nameplate has been vandalised and the wall here is graffitied.

General Impression:

Distillery View is a fine estate with a new sense of community spirit. You have made great progress since entering last year and it is hoped that you can continue to build on this success best of luck!