

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Janesboro** Ref: **2083**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **203**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	26	29
The Built Environment	50	25	28
Landscaping	50	20	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	18
Litter Control	50	26	26
Tidiness	30	16	17
Waste Minimisation	20	6	6
Residential Areas	40	25	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	27
General Impression	10	4	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>203</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Janesboro is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition and we are delighted that you have returned with such a strong application. Many thanks for your completed application form with photos and map along with your first TidyTowns three-year action plan. This is an excellent document that has very clearly set out your vision and approach for the coming years. It is a fantastic achievement for you to have this and hopefully it will help you gain support from both within the community and outside agencies. So often with voluntary efforts it seems like it is the same few people doing the work time and again. You are encouraged to maintain a positive outlook, ensure that people know that new people are always welcome and be continually using your communication tools to advertise the good work that you are doing.

It was noted from the newspaper clips that you have high viz vests with the TidyTowns logo across the back and this means passers-by will note that it is community effort that is responsible for the improvements that they see. It is suggested that leaflet drops are not an effective way of advertising, being like so much junk mail, while face-to-face contact, going door-to-door if needs be, creates more interpersonal contact and will lead to better results. It also cuts down on waste which is another aim of this contest! It is noted that you have a Facebook presence and this is excellent. Facebook is particularly effective in keeping people updated on your activities and can be instrumental in attracting support.

You have good links with Limerick city council but what about other groups such as sporting clubs and social organisations? It is noted from your three-year plan that you took careful heed of comments in last year's adjudicators report and you are commended for giving these due consideration.

### The Built Environment:

Your before and after photos to the rear of your application form speak for themselves. It is small transformations such as these, one by one, that will ultimately empower your community to realise your long-term goals. Well done.

The Roxboro shopping centre is the commercial heart of Janesboro and it was looking very well on adjudication day. Tesco and the other small shops were all well presented by the car park and green areas were tidy (although landscaped areas are neglected).

The Topaz/Supermac's area was clean and tidy and the Tidy Towns sticker was noted in the window - a nice initiative! The Supermac sign in the car park is weathered however and needs to be replaced. The job done on the Glanworth Tyres building is excellent and greatly improves the appearance of this dominant structure.

Our Lady Queen of Peace primary school is a beautifully presented building with attractive grounds. The football club is in quite good shape. There was some littering on the pitch while the roadside needed to be swept of small litter and debris.

Despite being a recent edition Jack Sprats has established an attractive, traditional shop front. Its combination of fresh murals and clean flags create an eye-catching display. Bennett's Texaco garage is clean and tidy even if excessive signage on the road creates a cluttered appearance.

### **Landscaping:**

The newly landscaped area at the Janesboro name sign is attractive with a pair of maturing ash trees. While flower planting at the sign is effective the planting at the base of trees is not recommended as it competes with the tree for water and nutrients. It can also lead to poor tree growth.

Landscaping on the grounds of the primary school is very effective and well maintained. The green area around the plaque dedicated to Gerry O'Riordan is nice. Planting here to screen the plain concrete wall is a good idea. However the old natural stone wall is an attractive feature in itself with natural vegetation (ferns etc) and should not be screened.

The park is a major asset for the community and only inside the entrance was there evidence of some dumping.

The Marian Shrine is a highlight for the estate. It was not only immaculately maintained but the planting here is appropriate in scale and variety (if a little weedy).

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Janesboro is only partly hampered by its urban location. Wildlife can be found in abundance in built up habitats and knowing its requirements, i.e. food and shelter, can help you in attracting it to Janesboro. Your gardens and green areas all have potential for birds and insects. Perennial shrubbery and native trees (as opposed to non-native conifers) will be most attractive and could be integrated into landscaping decisions. You have involved Our lady Queen of Peace school which is excellent however the nature of your project (birdhouse with camera) was not fully understood. Was the nest box occupied and then vacated?

Planting wildflowers seems to this adjudicator to be a contradiction in terms and is rarely successful. You could designate areas where grass would be allowed to grow for the summer and this allows plants that are already there to express themselves. The wider margins of the park provide good wildlife habitat, why not try to survey this area for birds?

### **Litter Control:**

How often are litter picks carried out? Do you have a roster among your members? In busy urban areas patrols every one or two days are required to maintain a high standard. Getting the schools involved is excellent. Students can take part in litter picks and/or have art contests to raise awareness of this important issue. Do you take part in the national spring clean? This is run by An Taisce in April and is a great event for getting people out. You have identified dog fouling as a recurring problem. It was noted that Limerick city council has a campaign to encourage responsible dog ownership, did you help out with this?

Litter control was excellent around the shopping centre, a busy area. Elsewhere litter control was good within the estate areas but with some items along main roads.

**Tidiness:**

You have been active in removing graffiti and there is no alternative but to attack this problem in a timely and persistent manner. Your success in getting Limerick city council to address weeding issues was noted.

The area is generally tidy but there are a number of minor matters to note: an empty pole outside our Lady Queen of peace school should be removed; graffiti on the newly painted door of the Glanworth tyres should be quickly removed; the area in front of Janesboro FC has been dealt with to great effect, well done on this tremendous effort.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Well done to Our Lady Queen of peace for having been awarded their third green flag in 2012. This is a fantastic achievement! How does the TidyTowns work with the school to apply their ideas on water conservation and waste minimisation across the community?

Do note that litter is not considered under this heading although an effort should be made to segregate litter through recycling. What recycling facilities do the residents of Janesboro have access to? How are these maintained? This category is about looking at how waste can be minimised at source, particularly through prevention and reuse. You could encourage home composting, giving away unwanted items through [freetradeireland.ie](http://freetradeireland.ie) or promoting the use of 'no junk mail' stickers. Your initiative to collect all batteries is noted and is an excellent idea.

**Residential Areas:**

Homes throughout were generally presented to a high standard. Bilingual street nameplates were admired and are worthy of conservation. Natural stone boundary walls along O'Donoghue Avenue seem to be of heritage significance. Is it known how old they are or if they predate the houses?

Many attractive garden displays were admired. Number 5 Colbert Avenue deserves a special mention with a beautiful array of roses and colourful hanging baskets. The cherry tree at the end of Marian Avenue is a lovely feature in this area and is nicely complemented by planting in tubs.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Roads around Janesboro benefit from mature street trees although too many of these are non-native maple and lime. These are fine but more variety creates different shapes and shades that break the monotony.

The new Welcome to Janesboro sign was admired and is an excellent addition, reinforcing your identity and giving a sense of place. Litter has accumulated behind the short wall on Childers Road and perhaps could be targeted for a pickup. Your issue with road and footpath surfacing is noted and hopefully this can be addressed in time through engagement with Limerick city council.

**General Impression:**

Janesboro has followed up its good start in 2011 with a great follow-through in 2012. You now have momentum behind you and with this you can achieve anything. Well done for the hard work and we look forward to returning in 2013.