

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockainey** Ref: **1252**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **262**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	50	36	37
Landscaping	50	28	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	29
Litter Control	50	38	39
Tidiness	30	18	19
Waste Minimisation	20	8	9
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	251	262

Overall Development Approach:

Knockainey is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your completed entry form, map and additional information. It is most encouraging to read about the level of enthusiasm that you manage to maintain for a small town. Do try to be explicit in your application form as to what projects have been completed since the last adjudication. Sometimes this is hard to tell, in a number of instances the same project is presented more than once e.g. under different headings.

As mentioned in last year's report it is recommended that you set about preparing a three-year plan. This need not be an onerous undertaking but would simply state the main goals of your group over a three-year period. The Tidy Towns Handbook contains lots of tips and information on how to do this and it is well worth consulting.

Your efforts with Fás are acknowledged and this notwithstanding you have an impressive list of agencies and groups with which you are working. The level of genuine community involvement is apparent through your application and this is highly commended.

Well done on getting the high is vests, this will no doubt further advertise the great work you are doing. Many thanks for the numerous photos which are excellent in demonstrating the impact of particular projects.

The Built Environment:

The beautiful, lichen encrusted stone walls and buildings are an immediate attraction upon entering the village. Well done on repairing the stone wall and constructing the replica pump.

Maloney's pub is very well presented with some nice flowers and a clean tricolour to support the 'boys in green'. Your treatment of the old creamery and another derelict cottage nearby has improved the appearance of these structures. The church is looking well and its surrounds were neat and tidy. The old castle is a fine heritage addition to the village.

The school looks well and the neighbouring graveyard is well maintained.

Landscaping:

Do be specific about projects that you have completed e.g. you say tree planting, but we don't know where. The idea of taking donations of plants from people's gardens is wonderful and as you say, gives a real sense of ownership.

The grotto and 'Knockainey' sign, colourfully planted with flowers lends a strong sense of identity to this small village. It says "people here care about their place", and therefore it must be special.

In a rural location such as this so much of the landscape is defined by tall trees and native hedges. It is great to see that these are being maintained and should be enhanced whenever an opportunity arises. Teagasc can advise in this regard.

Byrnes cottage looks superb with the volume and variety of vegetation really enhancing this junction. The replica well on the far side of town is a striking feature and very attractive and this location. The use of old (but newly painted) farm machinery, dotted across the village, are interesting focal points.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on your Notice Nature award. As you have identified this category is about appreciating what is already there, and major interventions are seldom required. The primary school nature walks are a great example of this and how lucky they were to see a shrew in action! Have you considered doing similar walks for grown-ups? Dawn chorus events, bat walks or wildflower rambles can be fun and informative if you can get the right person to lead them. It is great that you can list the animals that have been spotted. Why not compile these records so that changes can be observed over time. They would even be of interest to the National biodiversity data centre.

It is unfortunate that your river walk plans have foundered but do try to persevere and hopefully common sense will prevail. The wildlife field was admired and it would be interesting to watch its progress as new plants, and eventually trees, colonise this area.

Litter Control:

Your zero tolerance approach to litter is duly noted and clearly this is one area you have managed to bring under control. You are fortunate that there seems to be a high level of awareness of this in the town and this is an important preventative measure. Well done on participating in the national spring clean.

As expected litter was absent from view during adjudication, well done!

Tidiness:

You clearly are vigilant under this heading also and well done on taking on board the comments from last year's report and painting poles.

Walking around the village it is difficult to find points of untidiness upon which to comment. So this paragraph is necessarily brief. If there was a fly in the ointment it is the proliferation of overhead wires. While not an issue that is easily dealt with it would be worthwhile writing to the ESB to register your interest in having this project completed.

Waste Minimisation:

Many towns struggle with this category and fail to move beyond recycling so it is wonderful to read of your many initiatives. The audit was an excellent way to start. This would be worthwhile repeating in a few years to

see how attitudes have changed.

The reuse of jam jars shows imagination and is exactly the kind of thing the adjudicator is looking for. Well done. Have you been able to make progress in promoting composting in people's homes?

Similarly the scrap metal collection shows how reducing waste can have a financial dividend. Well done to the school on achieving its green flag. This is a major milestone and is no doubt only the first of many.

Residential Areas:

Knockainey has a small stock of houses and no estates as such. Those homes that there are blend in with the fields and surrounding countryside. Homes viewed on adjudication day were presented to a high standard and many attractive gardens were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Hospital is most attractive and your new name plaque here was admired. The new stone wall on the Bruff approach is another fine addition.

The old Hill Road is similarly lush and rural in nature and the village nameplate here is clean nicely adorned.

General Impression:

Knockainey shows that that being small does not mean certain aspects of Tidy Towns are out of reach. It is most impressive that you have tackled each category systematically and have brought the community which you. Best of luck and keep up the good work!