

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Loughill West** Ref: **462**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	34
The Built Environment	50	0	34
Landscaping	50	0	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	23
Litter Control	50	0	33
Tidiness	30	0	19
Waste Minimisation	20	0	8
Residential Areas	40	0	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	29
General Impression	10	0	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome Loughill Development Association to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Making an application online is in the future because not all entrants have access to broadband at present.

Your committee numbers 14 members. That is quite a big committee for a village with the population that Loughill has. It confirms that you have strong support from your community.

You are working with the right support agencies to your mutual benefit.

You communicate through public meetings and the local newspaper. Copies of clippings from the newspaper mentioning your activities should be sent with your entry form. The content may be taken into account when marks are being allocated and will be returned to you when the competition ends.

Communications with the school noted and also the help that the pupils give during the summer.

Fundraising events noted.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church of the Assumption is a key building in the village. It is on an elevated site looking out over the estuary. It is very well presented. The grounds are very well maintained and include a variety of shrubs and flowers at the front wall. White handrails flank the steps up to the church. Gleaming, black lamp standards are beside the steps.

Filling station is for sale. Hopefully, a new owner can be found before it deteriorates much further. At present it is not too unsightly but it needs some attention. The 2 fuel pumps will rust. A fuel pump was removed leaving just its rusty base with weeds growing in it and rusty wires.

Elm Fireplaces neat and tidy. Anglers' Rest pub looks well. Adjoining residences are well presented.

Gerald Griffin Resource Centre (West Limerick Resources) looks well with its flower filled window boxes.

Picnic area on road to Glin. This is an excellent amenity area which the adjudicator used as his lunch stop. The grassed area is well maintained with tubs of colourful flowers and shrubs.. There is a clean litter bin and the picnic tables and seats are also clean.

The school looked well. 1 Green Flag.

Derelict buildings in the village noted. These will present a challenge to your committee and to the local authority if the owners cannot be contacted.

### **Landscaping:**

Owvane river banks look well.

Old stone parapet extends from the bridge along the Ballyhahill road where it becomes a wall. It has well filled flower containers on the top.

The hanging baskets on the bridge look very well.

There are flower beds in the picnic area/car park beside the bridge which were suffering badly from weeds. In fact, the whole area needs attention. There is a wooden garden shed that is badly damaged and should be repaired or removed. Seat unusable as it is facing a wall. Recycling centre clean and tidy. No litter. This is a lovely area on the estuary shore. It has great potential as a recreation/amenity area, which is what it was intended for but it seems to be used more as a car park now. What a shame.

Approach roads are dealt with in the Roads, Streets and Back Areas category but it is appropriate to comment here on the appearance of approaches. From Foynes the approach is very good with mature landscaping on both sides of the road. Grassed areas well maintained with lots of trees and shrubs. However, a large mound of dumped grass clippings was at the back of the grassed area almost under the hedging. Judging by its colour it was not freshly cut but had been there for some time.

Despite that a good first impression of the village.

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

You mention that you are planning a shore walk with bird watching sites and wildlife signage along the walk. Perhaps you would outline the timetable for the implementation of this project in your next entry form as it cannot be adjudicated on until it is finished.

### **Litter Control:**

You have 2 workers monitoring and managing litter. Elsewhere in your entry you mention that the pupils in the school also help in the summer. This is having the desired result. There was very little litter evident on adjudication day.

Well done to all involved.

### **Tidiness:**

There are 2 village name signs on the approach from Foynes. One says 'Loughill', the other 'Loghill'.

The wall at the parking area opposite the church has been damaged in places. Some evidence that repairs may have started e.g. there is a pile of sand in a corner of the parking area.

A lamp post against this wall has old posters on it which should be removed.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the scrap collections.

The recycling centre has been seen

Some entrants have difficulty with this category. Please consult the Tidy Towns handbook. It has advice and tips. The Loughill Development Association is expected to be proactive in promoting best practise to the community. A newsletter is a good way to do this. Tips on ways to reduce waste can be included. A useful web site is [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie) A village not a great distance from yours carried out a survey with the help of 10 families over an agreed period. The families were surprised at how much waste they managed to eliminate. Their Tidy Towns committee is now briefing all of the village community.

**Residential Areas:**

Residential areas are well maintained. Although not a residential area as such, residences on the Ballyhahill road are well presented as are the residences on the approach from Glin.

Noted that Loughill Development Association maintain communal green areas.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Failte go Leamhchoill signs look well on approach roads. And there is no confusion about the spelling of your village name in Irish.

Repairs carried out to bridge. Some stones missing.

Road surfaces were good and roads were clean.

**General Impression:**

Well done on winning awards for your Resource Centre.

You are welcome back after a short absence. It will take you a short while to get back into your stride. Yoe have made progress. The economic climate has changed, as you know. Resources are constrained leading to more challenges. However the Tidy Towns competition is ist 54th year

Disused buildings are becoming an increasing challenge. So, too, is the pressure on funding for Tidy Towns activities. Many entrants are listing it as an increasing issue, particularly where the populations of towns and villages are low. We have no solution to offer. Loughill Development Association further enhanced your village fot this years competition. We look forward to receiving your entry for the 2013 competition.

Thank you Loughill Development Association.