

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moyross** Ref: **2080**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **194**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	50	23	24
Landscaping	50	21	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12	13
Litter Control	50	20	21
Tidiness	30	15	16
Waste Minimisation	20	7	8
Residential Areas	40	26	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	4	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>194</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Moyross is most welcome back to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form, photos and additional information. There is a palpable sense of energy and optimism apparent from reading your material and it is clear that this sense of hope is having material benefits for people on the ground.

You completed two application forms, one written and one typed. This is unnecessary and can cause confusion so perhaps you could just use the electronic version for next year. You can incorporate your photos into this and there is plenty of scope with which to describe your projects in detail.

You have a large area and this was shown on your aerial photo. Do make sure to mark the locations of all your projects on this so that the adjudicator can inspect them (e.g. the community centre and garden did not appear). This area includes Delmege Park and Ballygrennan Close but these areas have entered on their own and so must be excluded from this adjudication. It may make sense for you all to be judged as one so please discuss with them how you want to proceed in future.

You have 15 on your committee and it is great that all areas are represented at the decision-making level. Beyond the committee do you have good support from the community? Do you get many coming out on a voluntary basis to help on cleanups or work days? You have a range of communication channels and these will all be needed to ensure awareness of what you are doing is high. It is great to read that you have such positive engagement with Limerick city council, the Regeneration Agency, schools and local businesses. Working together you can achieve your goals.

### The Built Environment:

It is great to read that Limerick city council is working with you to demolish disused houses in a timely manner. It also seems that the regeneration is proceeding with new homes and amenities. This is encouraging. Meanwhile your group is highly commended for securing central heating for all homes as this would seem like a basic requirement.

The Watch House shopping centre is a great focal point for Moyross and is a thriving commercial and municipal area. It looks very well with clean facades and a litter free car park. The community library is a wonderful facility in an attractive modern building.

The church is a beautiful small building that is complemented by very well manicured gardens and a lovely variety of trees and shrubs. Clean flags add colour and movement for the roses around the grotto are a nice touch. The Corpus Christi school is similarly well built and the abundance of trees really benefits the appearance here.

The metal railing at the health centre is in sharp contrast to the school and church, if they are really needed could they be painted green? Inside, the buildings are well maintained and nicely landscaped.

### **Landscaping:**

As more houses are demolished this creates more green space, which in turn needs to be maintained. Have you considered taking a comprehensive approach to this issue? E.g. identify areas where grass cutting needs to be done. Could some areas be left to grow during the summer? Normally this looks neglected but mowing just the edges, or a path throughout, ensures that it continues to look maintained. You could also consider planting groves of trees, preferably a variety of native species, and hedges (using hawthorn and blackthorn) along stretches of grey wall. All of these ideas are good for landscaping, provide resources for birds and insects, and cuts down on the need for continuous maintenance.

Your flower project is excellent for your community garden is another wonderful initiative.

Green areas were all well trimmed on adjudication day and a number of mature trees are huge landscaping assets. Dead trees should be removed and replaced. Try not to use sycamore and maple as they are dark and non-native. Cherry, rowan, birch and whitebeam provide a variety of colours throughout the seasons.

Flower displays in central reservations at the school are effective here but the concrete surrounds need to be cleaned and painted.

The community garden was found and is a fantastic feature. Well done on all the effort that has gone into this. The playground and astroturf pitch are excellent and well maintained.

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

Your community garden can have benefits for wildlife but is considered under the landscaping heading. Your plans to expand wildflower areas looks good but these can be high maintenance and is more gardening than conservation. Did you know that the Lower River Shannon special area of conservation is on your doorstep? Visit [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) to see a map, but this area consists of wetlands and ponds that are among the most important sites in Ireland for nature. It is home to otters, kingfishers and a whole range of other plants and animals. Why not contact the Limerick city council heritage officer or your NPWS Ranger to arrange a talk a guided walk?

There is huge scope here for children to learn about the importance of rivers and wetlands and how biodiversity benefits our daily lives. This could be done through our projects or school tours.

The lovely wildflower area in your garden was admired, this is a nice feature with genuine biodiversity interest.

### **Litter Control:**

You are working on litter control on a number of fronts including clean up days, litter patrols and working with Limerick City Council on dog fouling. The 'keep Moyross tidy' van was admired on adjudication day doing its rounds.

Litter control was mostly to a high standard on adjudication day but a number of stray items were noted, particularly along the main road by the church etc. The recycling banks at the community centre are very tidy. The one behind Spar is slightly less so.

**Tidiness:**

You are clearly aware of the need to control graffiti and weeds along kerbs. Your audit of signage is the right way to go in this area so do include a copy of this in your application form and track how progress is being made.

Generally Moyross was looking tidy on adjudication day. Some areas can always be improved however, e.g small graffiti and weeds in the cobblelock at the library should be addressed.

Addressing your audit of signage poles etc would be a huge benefit since other issues such as weeds do not present themselves. Graffiti is a localised issue and ideally this should be addressed as soon as it arises.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on your purchase of water butts for the garden. Even though Ireland is a wet country it costs a lot of money to collect it, clean it and deliver it, so conservation measures like this have great value.

Home composting, or composting of grass cuttings, etc is an extremely important measure in reducing waste. It can also provide material for your vegetable garden and so cut down on the cost of fertiliser and peat moss. You could also promote [freetradeireland.ie](http://freetradeireland.ie) which helps people find new owners for unwanted items or hold a bring and buy sale to raise funds for your group. Scrap metal is now worth money.

Your school's green flag is a fantastic initiative and they have already spent much time on this issue. Find out what projects they have completed and see which ones can be applied across the community.

**Residential Areas:**

Your painting party sounds wonderful and could be a real incentive to get people out.

The new houses are of good design and will be an attractive addition to your neighbourhood.

Your efforts to include all residential areas are commended and smaller projects like the flower day can have big impacts. Well done.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

You have identified signage as a key future project under this heading. You could try to agree on a style that reflects the positive character of Moyross and be sure to use Irish as well as English. 'Welcome to Moyross' plaques should be placed on approach roads which would add to your sense of identity. Old stone walls on the road near the shopping centre add character and a sense of heritage.

**General Impression:**

Challenges remain for Moyross but looking behind you can see how far you have come. Certainly in the contest you are making great strides and your comprehensive approach to all categories is admired. Keep up the good work!