

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Murroe** Ref: **464**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **262**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	50	42	42
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Litter Control	50	25	26
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>262</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Murroe Tidy Towns Association to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated.

Your entry form is fine but do keep in mind that you do not have to confine your entry to what will fit on the entry form. Feel free to add additional pages and to enclose photos, press cuttings, etc. The map and key are appreciated by your adjudicator.

Your committee of 8 members seems about right for a town with your population. Having 4/5 meetings annually seems somewhat infrequent, particularly during the busy preparation period. Do you have a 3 year plan? If not, we would strongly urge that you prepare one. It helps to give structure to your plans for the future and it facilitates prioritising projects to fit budgets in this time of declining income from all sources.

You have a wide ranging number of support bodies and agencies, including the ICA, the first time that this adjudicator has seen it listed.

Your communications media do not include local newspapers. They need local news. Would you consider sending them copies of your newsletter? If they publish extracts then please include copies with future entries as they may be taken into account when deciding your marks and they will be returned to you after the competition.

Well done for helping the school to be awarded 2 Green Flags. Keep up the good work because this adjudicator dealt with an entry this year where 2 girls schools were vying with each for their 6th and final Green Flag. Each wants to be the first. Fierce competition is not confined to supermarkets!

Your 2 festivals/events were noted.

### **The Built Environment:**

Murroe, because of its population is in the small town category yet it looks and feels like a village. The map you supplied shows that Murroe has had to host 5 new housing developments which, no doubt, brought their own challenges. In this category your entry form focussed on the new children's playground and adjoining amenity area with the fountain so your adjudicator will start there.

The new playground, with its very colourful swings and roundabouts, etc. was very busy. Unusually for this summer the weather was good and it was a pleasure to see children enjoying themselves so much. The playground was clean and tidy. The adjoining amenity area with its fountain and seats also looked well. Money well spent. All involved in this new addition to Murroe are commended.

Nearby Crokers pub is impressive and certainly makes a statement.

The town pump is very well presented. Nicely painted, it stands in its own walled enclosure. There are well filled flower beds in front of it and ivy softening the enclosure's wall. Well done Murroe Tidy Towns.

The Muintir na Tire Hall looks very well, among the best in the town. It is well painted and has colourful hanging baskets and well filled flower containers adding lots of summer colour. The recycling centre was clean and tidy. Well done Muintir na Tire.

Opposite is the old forge. which is eye catching. No doubt its turn will come in due course for a makeover.

Mulcair Credit Union stands out, as does Teac an Cheoil. The neighbouring house to Teac an Cheoil has raised flower beds, shrubs, flower pots and an interesting collection of old farm implements. The Post Office is neat and tidy with 2 flower containers adding a splash of colour.

The church looks well and the grassed areas are neat and tidy. Colourful flower containers at the railings which were clean and nicely painted.

Elsewhere in the town your adjudicator saw a sign saying "No houses in Harty Park" and wondered what it meant. Having visited the GAA club your adjudicator now knows what that meant. The clubhouse is well painted and the pitch and surroundings are also well presented.

Your adjudicator was curious about the small building between the credit union and the Post Office. It has just one window and a door, both painted red. There are red decorative features on the walls which were being painted a shade of cream. The painter told your adjudicator that the premises was a shop from which a butcher sold meat to churchgoers after mass on Sundays. A relic of times past. As are the 'thatched' cottages which were nicely white washed.

The Garda Station and grounds were looking well. It occupies a key location in the town. Your adjudicator notes that you used your influence to have the grounds landscaped, including the planting of trees along the boundary with the school. The shrubs at the front wall are attractive.

Next to the Garda Station is the school and its grounds look well, with its Green Flag flying proudly over all. The wall with the murals is eye catching.

The celtic cross monument and its surrounds are impactful and there is a nice copper beech beside it. The black and white kerbing is clean.

### **Landscaping:**

The approach from Annacotty has a very attractive landscaped area at the town sign. A large grassed area with distinctive and clean black and white kerbing has colourful flowers and shrubs together with large stones and a backdrop of trees. A very good first impression of Murroe.

Later other landscaping was noticed at various locations in the town - pump, fountain, Garda Station, monument, entrance to Glenstal Abbey, etc. The amenity area with its fine mature trees is a great asset to the town and Murroe Tidy Towns is commended for this initiative.

Although not part of your landscaping the pitch and putt club looked tempting but your adjudicator had to resist the temptation.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on having a flora and fauna survey done by a transition year student in the amenity park. The results of that survey will allow you to plan and prioritise projects that will increase usage of the park. A useful web site is [www. Birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.Birdwatchireland.ie).

The lush countryside surrounding Murroe has an abundance of wildlife and it can be attracted into the town. With appropriate projects Murroe Tidy Towns can, and should, increase its score significantly in this category.

**Litter Control:**

On adjudication day litter was noticed on the footpath and on the road at the playground. It was also seen at the car park of Crokers pub.

Your litter patrols by the FAS worker, volunteers and school pupils are effective as very little litter was seen in Murroe. Your use of the newsletter and web site to promote anti-litter messages is noted.

**Tidiness:**

There are 2 signs for Murroe on the landscaped area on the approach from Annacotty. One is the standard black and white town name sign The other is a standard finger sign on a pole and it is pointing towards Annacotty with Murroe 1 km on it. It is superfluous and both sign and pole should be removed by the local authority.

Your plans regarding footpaths and a notice board are noted.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Some entrants find this a difficult category. The Tidy Towns handbook should be consulted for advice and tips which can then be included in newsletters , web, etc.

Murroe Tidy Towns Association is expected to be proactive in promoting best practice to its community. Litter control is dealt with in the Litter Control category. One aspect of this topic is to reduce or stop material, including food, from being brought into the town which then ends up as waste. A Tidy Towns entrant in another part of Limerick did a survey using 10 families for an agreed period of time. At the end of the survey the families and the Tidy Towns committee were surprised at how much waste they had managed to reduce. The committee are now briefing the rest of the community.

A useful web site is [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie).

**Residential Areas:**

Encouraging the new estates to set up residents associations is a good strategy and Murroe Tidy Towns Association is commended for getting 4 of the 7 new estates to agree to do so.

Your adjudicator visited the following:

1 on your map. No name sign. New housing development with some retail units located at the car park. Most unlet. Grassed areas well maintained. Young trees. 2 clothing bank containers - SvP & ISPCA. Clean, tidy. Houses well presented.

Abbeyowney: mixed 1 & 2 storey terraced houses. Grassed areas well maintained. Flower beds. Piece of sculpture.

Glenstal Gate: Pillared entrance landscaped on both sides. Well kept verges. Young trees. Green in front of houses. Neglected. Unfinished areas.

The Meadow/Ros Fearná: 5 on map. Extensive grassed areas. Grass needs to be cut. Young trees. 2 tyres on a grassed area. Weed control at kerbs needed.

7 on map. Adjudicator could not find this estate. Land had been fenced and roads constructed but no houses built.

Gilmartin Park: a mature neighbourhood. Stone name sign had recently been put on a base in a grassed area

at the entrance. Safety tape around it until cement is dry. Raised flower bed and 2 well filled planters. Well maintained neighbourhood.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach from Annacotty leads to a very attractively landscaped area at the town name sign. A very good first impression of Murroe. Approach on the Cappagh road has no special features.

In the town the roads are generally acceptable and clean. However, in your entry form you say that Limerick County Council promised to resurface the Main Street.

**General Impression:**

The playground, fountain and amenity area were very good achievements for 2012.

There are categories where Murroe Tidy Towns Association could, and should, score more marks.

We look forward to receiving your entry form for the 2013 Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you Murroe Tidy Towns Association.