

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Old Pallas - Pallasgreen** Ref: **1996**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **228**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	28
The Built Environment	50	0	32
Landscaping	50	0	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	18
Litter Control	50	0	32
Tidiness	30	0	16
Waste Minimisation	20	0	7
Residential Areas	40	0	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	30
General Impression	10	0	5
TOTAL MARK	400	0	228

Overall Development Approach:

Old Pallas is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. It is noted that you entered the contest back in 2009 along with your neighbours in Pallasgreen and perhaps it will be more fruitful for you to have entered separately this time round. Whatever way you work it we are delighted to have you! As it's been a while you are strongly recommended to refer to the TidyTowns Handbook as this is full of useful steps and tips to get the most for your town out of the contest. You have six in your committee and this is a good start. This winter why not try to gather your plans into a three-year plan? This would set medium-term goals and establish a vision for your town that you can achieve. You don't have to be too ambitious but even small successes can help you build community support and attract more volunteers. You indicate that you have not approached regional agencies for support? This is a shame as Limerick county council in particular has experience and practical help to offer. You later say you have some Fás assistance so this should be given recognition. Getting your local schools involved can also be to your mutual benefit.

Many thanks for your map but do try to produce a hand drawn version. This is important in showing the adjudicator the areas in which you have been working as this is where points will be awarded.

Be sure to advertise your activities where you can and your barbecue would have been a great event for this.

The Built Environment:

You have clearly identified the buildings in your town that require urgent attention. In this regard your photos provide a welcome inventory. Just because they are in private ownership does not mean they are beyond your reach. Talk to Limerick county council as they have particular powers in this area.

The Co-op building is plain but issues of graffiti seem to have been resolved since the issue was raised in 2009. The ivy-covered, white walled house has great character in this location and is beautifully presented.

Powers pub retains a quaint facade that is cleanly painted and decorated with wagon wheels and a small pump. Some flower baskets on protruding hooks would complete the picture here.

Landscaping:

In this rural location Old Pallas is well endowed with natural hedges and tall trees and these are important for wildlife as well as defining the landscape. They provide a year-round effect and so have many advantages over displays of annual flowers. Of course flowers add colour and soften buildings so a good balance should be the aim here.

Planting of hornbeam trees outside the Co-op are ideal for this location although additional planting shrubs at their base is unnecessary and may be robbing the trees of water. A simple grove of alder at the grassy road junction is effective while the display of roses against the stone wall opposite looks wonderful. Small-scale street landscaping with whitewashed benches and urn-style flowerpots are inviting and encourage views of forest covered hills beyond.

The green and black painted pump caught the eye with its roses that are proportional to the main feature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This heading aims to promote appreciation of your town's natural environment. This can be done through working with your schools on surveying wildlife habitats in your town and inventorying the many species that are likely to be found. Small things like building bird/bat boxes, holding a wildflower walk by Dawn chorus, can raise awareness at minimal cost.

Litter Control:

You are most fortunate to have a Fás worker helping you out on litter control. Is there a need for additional resources in this area? Do you participate in the national spring clean in April? Many towns arrange regular patrols while volunteer events could address any problem areas. This category is as much about how to deal with the issue of litter control as it is about the appearance of your town on adjudication day.

The bring bank at the garage was very clean on adjudication day. Elsewhere litter control was to a very high standard, well done!

Tidiness:

Old Pallas enjoys a tidy appearance, nestled within low, forested hills, that is idyllic in many ways. There were no major issues of tidiness noted during adjudication with surfaces and signage uniformly in good order.

It may be worthwhile writing to the ESB to enquire about the feasibility of putting overhead wires underground. A long-term aspiration to be sure but one that would remove clutter from the skyline.

Waste Minimisation:

This issue is not to be confused with litter control. Ireland produces more waste per person than any other European country and much of this goes to landfill. While we are generally good of recycling we really need to prevent waste generation in the first place if we are to tackle this problem.

Even in a small town this could be done through awareness raising initiatives such as composting workshops. Much of our waste is packaging of food so there is lots that can be done to minimise waste here. Your school may have a green flag. If so it is vital that it be recognised here. Many of the school's initiatives can be applied across the community.

Residential Areas:

A number of fine homes were admired on the outskirts of the village. It is a shame that no footpath links these to the centre and this must create a hazard for pedestrians, especially during winter. Elsewhere a number of very attractive gardens were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Pallasgreen is very attractive with tall trees and lush vegetation. The village name plates are clean and clear and are enhanced with some additional planting. The stone wall is a very complimentary feature here. This consistent approach was admired on other entries to the town.

General Impression:

It is wonderful that Old Pallas has chosen to re-enter tidy towns under its own heading and we hope that this will be the start of a long and fruitful relationship. You have made a great re-start and it is hoped that you will build on this in 2013, particularly by preparing a three-year plan. Best of luck!