

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Pallaskenry** Ref: **1297**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **216**
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	28
The Built Environment	50	0	31
Landscaping	50	0	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	6
Litter Control	50	0	30
Tidiness	30	0	17
Waste Minimisation	20	0	6
Residential Areas	40	0	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	31
General Impression	10	0	7
TOTAL MARK	400	0	216

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Pallaskenry to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the helpful map which greatly assisted this adjudicator. The committee of eight is quite large and this is most positive. It was noted that you also have three volunteers and perhaps this number can be expanded in the year ahead. Have you met the LEADER Partnership to discuss possible support for some of your projects? A 3 Year TidyTowns Plan was not included entry. It is suggested that this is prepared by your Committee in the coming winter by identifying what work you wish to do under each adjudication category in each year. It is a good idea to indicate possible supporting groups or agencies for each project. This should be a very simple and straightforward document.

The Built Environment:

Fine limestone walls and mature trees are keys aspects of the true character of Pallaskenry. Derelict or closed buildings are a problem in Pallaskenry. Basic low cost cosmetic work can make a big difference. Filling in door and window spaces with outdoor Plywood and painting these black with white glazing bars can be a very successful as a short term measure. Work at the Community Centre was examined. At the Garda Station can you arrange to have the pole with the sign painted matt black? Just down the Main Street the pole for Kenry Court also needs to be painted. Even very small projects like this can make a difference. The cut limestone building of the Catholic Church was admired together with the raised landscaped area to the side. Two flower containers provide colour that works well with the grey limestone.

The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role. The stone buildings in the area of the Post office were admired. The Credit Union building presented well and was very neat and tidy. Some very good painting has taken place in Pallaskenry in recent times especially at the northern end of the village.

Landscaping:

There are three key landscaped areas in Pallaskenry which were all visited and examined. The Millennium area is excellently presented and maintained as is the area at the junction of Grand Gates and the Main Street. The third area near Ross Choll was also attractively presented. Elsewhere in Pallaskenry residents have provided colourful hanging baskets and window boxes to great effect. Work in front of St Mary's Terrace was also visited and this is an improvement. In front of the Community Centre the raised landscaping here is commended. Your adjudicator reminds the TidyTowns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Work on the stream in front of the GAA has been noted from the entry form. Did you get professional advice before cleaning and deepening the stream as such work can damage wildlife including fish life in the stream? Have you considered doing a Wildlife Survey of Pallaskenry to establish what wildlife there is in the village? The next step would then be to provide some interpretation. Perhaps LEADER can be of assistance?

Litter Control:

The regular litter picks are part of your litter control practices and this is welcomed. You got great support for the two cleanups in February and March and well done for organising that. Litter was evident on the Kilcornan approach road on the left and on the Ballykisteen road. In the core of the village litter control was excellent. The Bring Centre at the College was visited and unfortunately the litter could be seen before the Bring Centre Units were found. The situation here needs attention. A village centre location would be preferable with heavy landscaping.

Tidiness:

The use of weedkiller was noted in some areas especially in St Mary's Terrace. This practice can cause serious wildlife damage and is not environmentally friendly. The main issue of tidiness arise from the presentation of approach roads and that is discussed later in this report. In general Pallaskenry was reasonably tidy especially in the village centre.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done to the School on their Green Flag progress and good luck with the third flag. This category is about reducing the quantity of waste produced in Pallaskenry each year. You should meet the Waste Minimisation Officer in the County Council who will be of help to you. Also the TidyTowns Handbook will be helpful in this regard. The comments of last year's adjudicator are still relevant.

Residential Areas:

On the Kilcorney road the houses are nicely set back from the road and generally well presented. St Mary's terrace was also visited and apart from the weedkiller issue this estate is being well maintained. Cluain Mhuire looks very bare and would be enhanced by the planting of some native trees. On the Ballykisteen road the houses here lack a colour range. In contrast good colour variation adds much to the overall impact at An Curran. At Ross Choll weed growth in gravel areas and at kerbing needs attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The banks and verges on the Ballykisteen road were uncut and on the Kilcornan road weed growth at the base of walls was the main issue. On Grand Gates road the stone walls and fine matures trees were noted but the bank on the left was uncut. The village sign at the top of this road was obscured by growth.

General Impression:

Do consider adopting a strategic approach to your work in the years ahead as Pallaskenry has good future potential in the competition. Good luck with your work in the year ahead when we will look forward to returning to Pallaskenry.