

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Southville/Gurteen** Ref: **2123**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **224**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	33
The Built Environment	50	0	26
Landscaping	50	0	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	35
Tidiness	30	0	19
Waste Minimisation	20	0	5
Residential Areas	40	0	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	25
General Impression	10	0	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>224</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Southville Gurteen is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. We are delighted that Southville Gurteen has decided to take this step to enter TidyTowns for the first time. It is hoped that this will be a positive experience for you, helping to foster community spirit and getting things done. Many thanks for your clearly completed entry form and hand drawn map. This was most useful to the adjudicator.

You have eight members on your committee with an additional 20 volunteers upon whom you can call for extra assistance. This shows a high level of support for your group among the residents. Do you think everyone in your estate is aware of your group? You are well established so perhaps your work is well appreciated but it is no harm to do occasional publicity drives e.g. going door-to-door to let people know you have entered the TidyTowns contest.

Your area is confined to the estate but it would be of benefit to expand on this slightly. Why not take in some of the Ballinacurra Road as far as Punch's Cross? This would include the Hotel and the derelict Petrol Station. Teaming up in this way could help to solve common problems.

You do not say if you engage with your local school. This would be a most useful exercise as you are neighbours and have a lot to gain from each other. You could help organise an anti litter art contest or include students in your spring clean. Perhaps they are in the green flag program, in which case they could pass on all they have learned about how to minimise environmental impacts at local level.

### The Built Environment:

The first impression of Southville Gurteen is that it is a fine estate with mature greenery and well kept houses.

Clearly there is pride in this estate! The old and natural stone wall running through the estate adds character and history to the area. Do you know the origin of these? It has been poorly patched up in the past with breeze blocks, could this be corrected? Contact the heritage officer of Limerick City Council for advice here.

The Quakers building at the end of Southville Gardens is a modern but sensitively designed building that is immaculately presented. The graveyard is quite hidden but is a beautifully maintained corner of your neighbourhood. Patrick Punch's Hotel looks well and is in a dominant position here.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping in the estate is a real highlight and this is clearly your forte. Lawns are immaculately trimmed. The bed on the right-hand side as you come in is carefully weeded and presents a beautiful display of roses and other shrubbery. On the left-hand side mature birch and sycamore form the dominant features while clematis provides perfect screening in this location. The cherry is on its last legs while another birch appears dead outright. The lavender, fuchsia and other plants look really well in the gravel and will mature here with low maintenance. The display of annuals in the pot is superb.

Green areas are well mown. However dead grass that has been dumped in more than one location looks untidy. Could you find a designated composting spot for this waste?

The beautiful display at the end of Southville Gardens was admired. Overall landscaping is top notch and adds hugely to the atmosphere of your estate.

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

There can be quite a lot of wildlife in suburban estates, particularly those like Southville Gurteen that are mature and have lots of trees and shrubs. Attracting birds to gardens is easy and fun so you could hold a garden bird awareness day e.g. with your local Birdwatch branch or local expert. Why not contact the school to see if there are joint projects you could undertake? Art contests, surveys or developing a wildlife garden are all things that have been successful in other areas. Have a look at the TidyTowns Handbook to see what other ideas might work for you.

What is the significance of the site at the end of Southville Gardens? It is like a nature reserve in the heart of your neighbourhood!

### **Litter Control:**

It is excellent that you have a spring clean in April. Was this a part of the national spring clean with An Taisce? It is also noted that you help Limerick City Council distribute their anti-dog poop leaflets and shows good collaboration with that agency. You mentioned that you carry out daily litter patrols in your estate, could these be extended to the area of Ballinacurra Road just outside your estate?

Litter was practically absent from the estate on adjudication day and you are clearly maintaining a high standard in this regard.

### **Tidiness:**

You have completed a number of projects here this year including repair and cleaning of signage and contacting Limerick City Council regarding the double yellow lines.

The estate is extremely tidy and you have no major issues to contend with. Kerbs are weeded and signage is clean. The white wall at the tarmac area needs to be painted to screen graffiti here. While wanting to promote the anti-dog poop promotion, fly posting on lamp posts looks untidy. Bins meanwhile are clean and sturdy looking.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Recycling is an important component of waste minimisation but note that it is only fourth in preference on the waste pyramid, after prevention, minimisation and reuse. You have identified possible linkages with Scoil Carmel and suggest that it is a green school. This would be a fantastic move as they will have a waste minimisation program as part of their first green flag.

You could encourage the use of 'no junk mail' signs to reduce paper waste. If you don't have a brown bin

collection you could encourage composting by holding a workshop with the Limerick City Council or the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. There are a lot of other things that could be done but making a start on these two projects: contacting the school and composting, would really set you on your way.

### **Residential Areas:**

The homes throughout the estate are all presented to a high standard. 'Rainbows End' deserves special praise for its beautiful garden. Bun Fáda is another with particularly attractive roses. Most boundary walls are well painted however others need attention. Could you arrange a community painting day for those who would like their walls painted?

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

It is noted that you are not happy with the quality of the roads and hopefully in time something can be done here. The bilingual Street name plates are a very attractive features and worthy of conservation. The stone name plates at the estate entrance look very smart. The derelict building near the entrance is an eyesore but could be worse. It is a perfect spot for a mural, perhaps with input from your school. Go to Annacotty and see what was done at their bridge. The Southville service station is also sadly disused and risks becoming a major eyesore.

### **General Impression:**

Southville Gurteen is a charming oasis near the heart of Limerick city. You have done well so far but you are encouraged to widen your boundary to include local businesses who also have an interest in addressing dereliction in this neighbourhood. We look forward to returning in 2013. Best of luck!