

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Templeglantine** Ref: **470**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **280**
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	50	37	37
Landscaping	50	40	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28	29
Litter Control	50	39	40
Tidiness	30	19	19
Waste Minimisation	20	7	7
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	278	280

Overall Development Approach:

Templegalantine is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form, photos and additional information. The adjudicator was confused as to your identity as ordnance survey mapping refers to you as Inchabaun, while Templegalantine is a neighbouring townland. Perhaps there is good reason for this but it would seem that the OSI should change this to the name in common usage. You do not indicate in your form how many are actively on your committee or made volunteer contributions. This is important for the adjudicator in order to gauge the level of support that you enjoy. Last year's report stated that you had 15 and this would be very healthy for a village of your size. It is hoped that you have managed to maintain this. You do not mention that you are engaged with Limerick county council or other agencies and this would be important in attracting sponsorship and other assistance. Your map was clear and very well drawn. It should be used to identify the location of your projects for 2012 so that the adjudicator can inspect all works done since our last visit. Your use of photographs is excellent and it was wonderful to see how busy the students in the school are in learning to protect and appreciate their environment.

Do refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for tips and information on suggested projects under each of the contest headings. Have you considered preparing a three-year plan? This will involve setting an overarching vision for Templegalantine and identifying actions under each of the contest headings over the coming three years. Such an endeavour would increase your points in this heading and perhaps help attract additional support.

The Built Environment:

Templegalantine is developed along a busy national route and as such its building stock is spread out along the road. The Devon hotel is looking very well and is an attractive building which combines a variety of building materials and is at a sympathetic scale to the village. The adjoining Devon inn retains a

distinctiveness and its black colour scheme is striking. The well presented name sign harks to days of yore.

The presence of old farm buildings adds character to the village and reinforces its rural setting. A nice project would be to paint the old gate here. The food store and petrol station are very well presented and were clean and tidy on adjudication day.

The beautiful old church is set against lush greenery and is a fine heritage building for the village. The school complements this style very well although its green areas need trimming.

Is Halla Inse Bán under construction or disused? Perhaps you could clarify the situation for 2013. It is an attractive building and clearly of social/amenity value.

Landscaping:

Templegalantine is set within rolling green countryside, elements of which, such as trees and hedges, are present right into the village centre. This mature vegetation is the principal landscaping feature and is worthy of conservation. More formal landscaping can draw attention or screen particular features while annual flowers and baskets etc should be used sparingly except perhaps at premises entrances.

The Devon hotel shows how effective good planting schemes can be with roses bushes and pyracantha softening and complementing the peripheral areas. They have colour while in flower but are effective in scale and require minimal maintenance. Annual flowers in these beds are less effective due to their small size. They are effective however around the main entrance where they are most attractive.

The gazebo and surrounds across the road are a beautiful area most notable for its leafy trees and attractive furniture.

Beds around the car park need some attention as they are overgrown with weeds in some places. However shrubbery here is effective in softening hard edges.

The church grounds/graveyard are very well maintained and the statue is an interesting feature. The tubs here however were empty on adjudication day. The crucifix outside the school is well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This category encourages entrants to raise awareness of their natural heritage. While this is being done to some extent in Templegalantine you should give full details of all activities in the application form. The school seems to be taking the lead in this regard and well done to them for their efforts. You are also fortunate in that you have the great Southern trail and Tullig Wood on your doorstep. Are these amenities used in an active way to raise awareness for wildlife? Has a survey of the locality been carried out to determine what animals and plants are to be found there? Are there any threats to conservation e.g. alien invasive species, pollution etc? Answering these questions would greatly increase your understanding of the natural environment. Clearly the schools engage with this but how is the rest of the community involved? Holding heritage walks with local enthusiasts would be effective in this regard. The river flowing through the village is bound to be of wildlife value and has elements of native woodland.

Litter Control:

This category is as much about how you go about managing litter as it is about conditions on the ground. Again it is great to read about the school's involvement. Did you participate in the national spring clean in April? Does your group carry out regular litter patrols?

Litter control was to a very high standard on adjudication day, well done. The bring bank was clean but did have some minor litter items. A couple of old traffic cones here are untidy.

Tidiness:

The village is very tidy and no significant issues of this nature stand out. The lack of overhead wires, graffiti or excessive signage is noteworthy. The Bus Éireann bus stop is quite faded but could be worse.

A couple of iron poles (perhaps once used for B&B signs?) were noted e.g. at the school. They were rusty and serving no function so should be removed. Signage elsewhere is in good order.

Waste Minimisation:

This category seeks to address the growing problem of waste in this country. Ireland produces more waste than any other European country per person and much of this goes to landfill. To date the response to this is been focused on recycling. Does Templegalantine have recycling facilities? Recycling will remain important but there also needs to be a shift in focus up the waste pyramid towards prevention, minimisation and re-use. The school is applauded for addressing this through their green flag projects and they are wished every success in this achievement. The broader community can learn much from this as many school projects can be applied more broadly.

You could hold a waste minimisation seminar with Limerick county council or a composting workshop. There are other ideas in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

Residential Areas:

It is acknowledged that you are experiencing some difficulties in this area and it is hoped that these can be resolved through positive engagement. The relatively small stock of the houses in Templegalantine where presented to a high standard and many attractive gardens where admired. It is nice to see natural stone boundary walls being maintained in many areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Being situated along the main road certainly detracts from the village atmosphere, principally due to the speed of through traffic. It is noted that a bypass is planned and this would address the problem in the long-term. In the meantime could other traffic calming measures be adopted? You could meet with the National Roads Authority to discuss this.

The approach from Newcastle West looks well with a nameplates followed by a planted Fáilte sign. The wire fence at the former would be greatly enhanced if screened with a native hawthorn hedge.

There is no pedestrian crossing in the village and it seems that this is urgently needed as crossing the road must surely be a hazardous pursuit.

General Impression:

Templegalantine is a very well kept and presented village in a busy spot that is a popular stopover on the way to Kerry. You are encouraged to use your application form to give greater detail of projects at which you have been engaged. Best of luck!