

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tournafulla** Ref: **471**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	32	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	22
Litter Control	50	38	38
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Residential Areas	40	26	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	256	259

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome, Tournafulla to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. Your entry is comprehensive with added photos, copy letters and map. Your adjudicator is particularly thankful for such a clear map. Your committee is quite small – just 3 and 4 households who also help out but you achieve a lot. Well done to all involved. In addition to assistance from Wards Waste Material Company your committee also gets assistance from Limerick County Council, West Limerick Resource and a FAS worker. In relation to how you communicate you mention newspapers. If you have any press cuttings please enclose them with future entries as they may be taken into account when marks are being decided and will be returned to you when the competition is over. Your relationship with your local school is noted.

The Built Environment:

The Heritage Hall is an impressive, well presented building. It is quite large for a village the size of Tournafulla. Neat flower bed between the 2 front steps. Improvement carried out this year noted.

the GAA Club Complex looks very well. Pillars and gates clean and well painted. Buildings also clean and well painted. Pitch looks in good condition. Your adjudicator noted that the GAA run a lottery. The proceeds are well spent. Overall, it enhances the village.

The Homestead Bar looks well. The village water tap has been painted which improves the small landscaped feature around it. If the car park was tidied it would complete the makeover. The Garda Station is neat and tidy. Nearby, the old village hall is clean. Charity clothes bank beside it is also clean and no litter. Derelict building just past the GAA Club noted. It would reduce its impact if the windows and door were covered with plywood and painted. The TidyTowns handbook gives further advice on this treatment for derelict buildings. St. Patricks Church is an imposing building on an elevated site overlooking the valley which is well presented and grounds well maintained. The Grotto in the corner beside the graveyard wall looks well. In front of it is

low maintenance landscaping which is made up of grassed areas with a variety of shrubs. Handrail on the steep steps up to the church is spotless. Behind the church is a toilet which is clean and tidy. The school it is not flying a Green Flag. Weed/grass control needed at base of the wall. Four stone planters against the wall of the school. There were no flowers evident in any of them on adjudication day. Gates and flagpole need to be painted. The School yard tidy. There is no planting of any kind on the school property. Your adjudicator saw on your map the outline of a road to Old Tournafulla Village. However, it looks like the driveway to a farm so I had to curb my curiosity and did not enter it. Well done to all involved.

Landscaping:

Once again you have undertaken few projects in this category. Re-grassing and new trees at the church noted. Raised bed at the Exchange noted. The willow fence near the Heritage Resource Centre was admired as was the mixed beech hedging at Curtain's Cross. Harry's Cross to Curtain's Cross: grassed margins are kept neat and tidy and hedges neatly trimmed. Flowers and shrubs on the grassed margins along the main street add splashes of summer colour. The white painted tyres used as flower containers were also noted. Thank you for the photos of the invasive species. It is also appearing in other parts of the country together with other new invasive species.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is another category where very few projects were initiated for 2012. The road frontage of the bungalows is more appropriate to landscaping. The willow hedge also belongs there. The TidyTowns handbook has good advice on projects for this category. There are also many useful web sites e.g. www.birdwatchireland.ie but you need broadband to access these and your adjudicator is not certain that Tournafulla has broadband yet. A usual starting point is a wildlife survey, often carried out with the assistance of pupils in the school but that does not seem to be a possibility. Some local authorities have Wildlife Officers. Sometimes the Heritage Officer doubles as a Wildlife Officer. Perhaps you would enquire in Limerick County Council.

Litter Control:

Tournafulla TidyTowns Association should draw up an anti-litter programme suited to the numbers available to you to do it. It should indicate the frequency of litter inspections, patrols, etc. On adjudication day your adjudicator saw and photographed litter at the recycling area, including cardboard boxes (one flattened and placed on the wall under the new railings), paper, etc. There were also lots of weeds around the base of the containers. There is a need to be vigilant.

Tidiness:

On main street weed/grass control is needed on footpath and kerb. Signs were clean and there was no clutter of finger signs on poles. Abandoned building site noted. As it cannot be seen from the village it will not have an adverse impact on your marks.

Waste Minimisation:

You do not say if you segregate rubbish collected during your clean ups. Last year in his report the adjudicator asked if you segregated waste. TidyTowns Committee are expected to promote to their community best practise in minimising waste. The TidyTowns handbook has advice on ways to do this. Well done to Wards Waste Material Company and to West Limerick Resource but we really need to know what Tournafulla TidyTowns Association did in this category for 2012.

Residential Areas:

Hillview, on Rockchapel Road, consists of bungalows which are well presented, many with attractively planted front gardens. They are on an elevated site looking out over the valley. The grassed areas are kept neat and tidy. Many of the properties on the main street are well presented. Well done to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach road – Harry's Cross: Attractive and interesting carved stone is eye-catching. Carved on it is "Failte", musical instruments and a hurley and sliothar. It stands on a well maintained grass margin which runs down towards Curtains Cross. On the opposite side of the road there is a neatly trimmed hedge. These create a very good first impression of Tournafulla. Welcome to Tournafulla signs at each end of the village, one in a stone faced raised flower bed. Main street and back roads in good condition.

General Impression:

Tournafulla TidyTowns Association faces the same challenges as face many other entrants – emigration, emerging dereliction, lack of financial resources. The TidyTowns Competition faced these problems in other recessionary times during the 54 years that the competition has been in existence. Despite these difficulties the competition has gone from strength to strength. Surprisingly, neither Tournafulla TidyTowns nor last years adjudicator mentioned the windfarm high above the village - like the elephant in the room! Because it is outside the TidyTowns area your adjudicator will not comment on it in this report. Besides, it is in line with both Irish government and EU policies. We are confident that you will make further progress next year and we look forward to receiving your entry to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition.