

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Woodlawn** Ref: **2095**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **182**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	50	23	24
Landscaping	50	20	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10	10
Litter Control	50	26	26
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	3	3
Residential Areas	40	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	400	180	182

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome, Woodlawn Park Residents Association, to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition. Your entry is very much appreciated. This is just your second year in the competition. The numbers involved on your committee – 30, are quite large which indicates great support for your association. Your entry form tells us that you are getting assistance from Limerick Corporation which is appropriate.

Thank you for the copy of your newsletter. It made interesting reading. Congratulations on winning a prize last year in Limerick Corporation's competition and we note your intention to spend it, starting with the main green.

The Built Environment:

Woodlawn is a mature, residential neighbourhood, so it does not have any public buildings such as school, church, library, Garda station, etc., which would be adjudicated in this category. Neither does Woodlawn have any historic buildings, ancient monuments, etc. which would also be included in this category. Woodlawn residences will be adjudicated under the Residential Areas Category.

The Grotto is immediately noticed on arrival at Woodlawn Park. It is very well presented as is the large, wooden garden shed housing the crib beside it. Flower containers, of all types, have lots of flowers (a few have shrubs) and these give lovely summer colour to the corner. The lawns are neatly trimmed. Mature trees provide shade and a high, clean (newly painted?) fence and gate provide security. A very good first impression of Woodlawn Park. Unfortunately, the other corner has what seems to be an empty house with a disused single storey structure beside it. The surface of the area around this structure is poor. The structure has been cleaned up and painted. I am sure it looks better than it did, but still is an eyesore and detracts from the good first impression of Woodlawn Park. We hope that Limerick Corporation can do something about it. The scaffolding pole fence and gate would look better if painted. As they are, they just add to the derelict look

of the site.

Landscaping:

On the main green the new trees were noted. The large planters of flowers were also noted. They do add summer colour. The 2 seats were clean and the grass well cut, with neatly trimmed edges. However, the young trees that your adjudicator saw were planted at the opposite end of the green to houses 93&94. Last year's adjudicator's report comments on new trees. Could this adjudicator have seen the same trees? I took photos in Woodlawn Park which I consulted when writing this report. Staked, tall, young trees are shown at the opposite end of the green to houses 93 and 94. Next year's adjudicator will get a copy of this report. If the trees proposed in your entry form had not been planted by the time this year's adjudication was done (June) then they will be taken into account next year. The lower green looks well and has mature trees around it. Here, too, seats are clean, planters with flowers and the grass tidy and with neat edges. Nearby, at the end of the road, at house 24 there are grassed areas, trees and a planter with flowers – a splash of summer colour. The Grotto was commented on in the Built Environment Category. However, it is appropriate to mention it again in this category. The trees have matured nicely and make their own statement at the entrance to your neighbourhood. There are plenty of flowers adding lots of colour and the lawns had neatly trimmed edges. Overall, a good first impression of Woodlawn Park.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Last year's adjudicator gave you useful advice about projects for this category. There are limitations on the things that you can do, given that yours is a residential urban neighbourhood. The winter wet area is noted and also the provision of bird feeders in back gardens and at the Grotto. Birdwatch Ireland (www.birdwatch.ie) can give you advice. In addition to the type of food used in bird feeders some species of birds live on a diet of insects, worms, etc. Grassed areas can be seeded to grow as a meadow which provides a habitat suitable for insects. It may be possible to do that in the area on your map marked Bengal. Meadows are cut just once a year for reseeding purposes and are left alone for the rest of the summer so you will have an area of high grass. I note that you have plans for this area to be used for other purposes. Bird boxes could be put up in trees to encourage nesting. Birdwatch Ireland will advise on this.

Litter Control:

You have a large team of litter pickers and they are making an impact with daily patrols. The only litter this adjudicator saw was in the Bengal area. Your newsletter mentions that leaflets provided by Limerick Corporation were attached to your newsletter and delivered to each house. The leaflet tells dog owners to clean up after their dog or else! Thank you for the copy of the leaflet. Well done to all concerned.

Tidiness:

Your adjudicator noticed that the lamp posts had been painted and the small ESB boxes had also been painted. There was some graffiti on a garage door at the Bengal area. Woodlawn has no other tidiness issues.

Waste Minimisation:

At the core of this category is the education of the community to think of ways to minimise the amount of material brought into Woodlawn that ends up as waste, including food waste. The TidyTowns Handbook gives advice and tips on this category. Your newsletter could include a section on this topic e.g. buy fruit and veg loose instead of on a tray wrapped in cling film. Litter is dealt with under its own category. A useful website is www.stopfoodwaste.ie.

Residential Areas:

Woodlawn Park is exclusively a residential area with 117 houses. On adjudication day, with 1 exception, 116 houses were presentable, some very well presented. This is confirmed by Woodlawn Park Residents Association winning a substantial prize in Limerick Corporation's competition. Congratulations to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance to Woodlawn Park, off the Ballysimon Road, is marked by a clean white wall on the corner with a sign on it "Woodlawn Park". Thank you for the copy of a sample name stone which your association

proposes to erect in place of the existing sign. It will certainly enhance the entrance. Your newsletter and entry form tells us that Limerick Corporation has agreed to resurface the road between houses 83 – 100. Otherwise the roads and footpaths are in good condition and no issues arise.

General Impression:

We sympathise with your frustration in dealing with the issue of the derelict structure at the entrance. The range of social and other events that you organise for residents shows that there is a very positive spirit among the Woodlawn Community. Your use of Facebook is very creative and must be greatly appreciated by former residents who are now living away from Woodlawn. Well done to all concerned.