

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **o Malley Keyes Parks** Ref: **2137**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **212**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	29
The Built Environment	50	0	25
Landscaping	50	0	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	15
Litter Control	50	0	35
Tidiness	30	0	20
Waste Minimisation	20	0	8
Residential Areas	40	0	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	26
General Impression	10	0	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Southill is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. It is hoped that your entry to Tidy Towns will act as a focal point to help build community pride in their surroundings. This is a positive time for Southill after some dark days and with local support, along with assistance from outside agencies, you can achieve your goals. To this end you are encouraged to set out your vision in a three-year plan. Advice on how this can be done is available from the Tidy Towns Handbook but essentially it defines your objectives over that time period. Actions are set out under each of the contest headings with defined target dates for completion. Larger tasks are broken down into manageable actions.

You have 15 on your committee and this is a very good number. Is all this voluntary? How do you get buy in from the various groups, are they represented on your committee? You state that you work with Limerick City Council, do you also liaise with the Regeneration Agencies? This would seem like an important partner. You mentioned that you feel that your community has been de-motivated. How do you think this could be reversed? Holding events e.g. your community fair in September sounds like the way forward.

It's fantastic that you have a high level of school participation and well done to them for their achievements in the green flag program. Do they participate in projects e.g. cleanups? Your use of photographs in the entry form is excellent and they really bring the projects to life. Your map was also good and clearly identified the locations of projects so that the adjudicator could view and inspect them.

### The Built Environment:

Southill house is a fine facility but for the purposes of this contest it is outside your area. The residents of Carew Park have also entered Tidy Towns and Southill house was judged here, perhaps there is scope

however for the two areas to join forces.

The Southill area centre is a fine building that was well presented on adjudication day. The church is looking well and was decked out with flags and bunting. The junior school is another well presented building for your community. The health centre is nice but railings here need to be painted while additional planting would screen the sharp points. A flag on the pole here would add colour and movement.

### **Landscaping:**

You have identified the large green areas as requiring a high level of maintenance. Could there be landscaping solutions to help reduce maintenance and enhanced their appearance? Why not contact Limerick City Council landscaping/parks department to see what options you have? Planting native hedges with a variety of trees and shrubs would attract birds and insects while also offering a year-round attraction.

Your community garden was not marked on your map. The trees and shrubs around the Southill area centre were admired and are very effective in this area. A couple of the trees are dead whoever and should be replaced. Rowan or whitebeam should be suitable here as they do not grow too big while also providing colour. The basketball court is a great amenity and has been very well maintained. The community garden was discovered at the back of the area centre and is a real highlight, it looks superb and well done for all the effort that has gone into this.

Trees and shrubs also looked well around the church. The grotto is an attractive feature and is very well attended. The addition of summer annuals add some colour, but perhaps something larger is needed to create impact in this space.

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

This category encourages communities to take a greater interest in the protection of the local biodiversity. Your wildflower meadows are excellent for raising awareness. Did they attract bees and butterflies? If so were you able to identify particular species? This would be a nice school project. Your area holds good potential for integrating new wildlife habitats as was discussed under the landscaping heading. Parks and gardens can be home to a wide range of species and they can be attracted given the right conditions. The two main factors are shelter and food. Native hedges provide both. Gardens can also be valuable and bird feeding has become a popular pursuit. Why not hold a wildlife gardening workshop to show people how this can be done?

There did not appear to be a wildflower display at the grotto as marked on your map. Nor was one apparent near the O'Malley Park sign. Perhaps these were projects planned for a future date.

### **Litter Control:**

How often are community clean ups carried out? Do you get a good level of participation? You should be aiming for a litter free estate. This can be done through a combination of awareness raising and regular patrols. Try to get high-viz vests with Tidy Towns across the back to promote your work when you are doing patrols. Do you take part in the national spring clean run by An Taisce in April? This is a great event to get people out. How do the schools get involved?

Litter control on adjudication day was excellent, well done on this great achievement!

### **Tidiness:**

The estate is very tidy and this is a credit to all those who have been working hard to change the local environment. Kerbs were weeded and verges well trimmed. Graffiti is minimal and fly posting non-existent, well done. There are a few issues that could be addressed however. An old, bent crash barrier near the health centre is unsightly while nearby black and yellow bollards would be improved if painted. Signage is mostly good but some needs to be replaced.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The school's green flags are a wonderful achievement. They would have dealt with the issue of waste management in a comprehensive way and many of their projects can be applied across the community. Recycling facilities are important and it is hoped that they are well used. However, recycling is only forth under the waste pyramid, after prevention, minimisation and reuse. It is excellent that you have composting facilities for your community garden. How can you promote composting at home? This would drastically reduce waste

volumes and provide material for landscaping features. What else can be done? Some simple ideas include encouraging the use of 'no junk mail' stickers, promoting [freetradeireland.ie](http://freetradeireland.ie) to allow people to find new owners for unwanted items, and collecting half-used tins of paint to paint a mural or an unsightly wall. You could contact the environment section of Limerick City Council for more information or the Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **Residential Areas:**

Dereliction is sadly an area that you have to deal with in residential areas in Southill. Burnt out buildings are being demolished and this addresses matters in a way. It is hoped you can address the underlying problem of depopulation in the context of the regeneration programme.

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

Well done for the effort in restoring the O'Malley Park sign and it was great to see the photos of this. Unfortunately by adjudication day it had been graffitied and the flowers were gone. Don't let the vandals win this, it's extremely discouraging but you are urged to go back and undo their destruction.

### **General Impression:**

Southill is currently in a transition phase and the fruits of regeneration are already in evidence. There is a sense that people care about their neighbourhood even if challenges lie ahead. It is hoped that your participation in tidy towns will help you along that journey. Best of luck!