

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carney** Ref: **747**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **245**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	29	29
Landscaping	50	32	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Litter Control	50	32	33
Tidiness	30	14	14
Waste Minimisation	20	10	8
Residential Areas	40	34	35
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	241	245

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Carney to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and to thank you for the lovely pictures submitted of your hard work and achievements this year. You have some great amenities in the community including two sports facilities and a busy shop. Well done on the community support you get from across the community and the nearby Oxfield Centre.

Like some communities you do not have a village school. Neighbouring Rathcormac has an active TidyTown group who may be keen to link up for certain initiatives so you can help involve local children in such community projects. You could also invite local youths to provide some ideas into your long-term planning for the community. As you already have a Facebook page (though with limited information posted as yet) you have in place the mechanism to get feedback from other members of your community. Perhaps you have representatives from the estates in the village – if not this would be a good approach also?

Well done to your committee on your hard work this year.

The Built Environment:

There are some nice buildings in the centre of Carney village. Laura's restaurant looked well and the community shop provides a good amenity for this rural community and it was good to see it so supported. The entrance to the Football Club, with a little input, could be greatly enhanced. For example, the painting of the boundary wall or provision of trees in planters inside the wall? The roof contractors at Oxfield sports centre were working hard on the day of the visit which also looked well.

There is a boarded-up bungalow opposite the shop which looked well despite not being occupied. The

painting of pictures on these boards could be a good project for the local ICA group and would add some fun to this end of the village also. It was good to note the ivy cottage on the Lissadell road being worked upon during your adjudicator's visit to Carney.

Landscaping:

Throughout the village planters looked very well with the Carney Name embossed on them. Nice ash trees were noted at the entrance to Oxfield Park. There were lovely bi-lingual stone and planters as you arrive from Lissadell into the village. Homes on the approach road also had lovely planting including the home (as you leave the village towards Drumcliffe) with planters on its outside staircase. The competition is encouraging communities to consider year-round structure in its planting which should also be more cost effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proposal to highlight the spectacle of the wintering barnacle geese is to be applauded as it is one of the best places in the whole of Ireland to see these. One of only 3 nature reserves in county Sligo, the committee should talk with the local National Parks & Wildlife Service ranger on possible ideas.

It was a delight to visit the riverside walk and admire the recent work carried out here. Well done on erecting the bird and bat boxes on the riverside walk, some of which were in use already! This was great to see. If planning to make some more birdboxes, there are useful templates on www.birdwatchireland.ie with particular regard to the need for small entrance holes for birdboxes. You could remove the stays from the cherry trees here.

It was lovely to see the yellow flag irises on the roadside as you drive into the village from Oxfield.

Litter Control:

There was no litter noted at or around Oxfield Park despite your adjudicator being certain she would find some here! It is suggested that you remove the old metal bins by the picnic tables in the riverside park as these are not serviced and some litter was accruing here. Well done on your Spring Clean.

Tidiness:

There are a few unusual intricately carved 'totem poles' in use by the village as signs. But those erected in front of Laura's seemed redundant during your adjudicator's visit. Watch out for some illegal advertising signs on telegraph poles. There was also a broken sign on Brady's bar that could be removed and a broken ice-cream advertising cone that should be removed.

Waste Minimisation:

This category of the competition is about preventing waste through initiatives eg. composting seminars. Further details are found in your TidyTowns Handbook on the competition's website.

Residential Areas:

There are many lovely homes all around the village including two traditional two-storey ivy-covered house with white railings. Such ivy can provide great shelter and food for local wildlife in particular late into the Autumn when other food sources are scarce.

The surprisingly large estate, Lissadell Park, was very well presented and planting has matured nicely here. Advertising hoarding place on the gable end of the entrance house here could be removed as the estate appears to well established now.

Seaview Estate has some lovely mature trees and also looked very well. There was no entrance sign at this estate. Perhaps the man holes and pipes for the septic tanks could be screened to avoid them distracting the eye from the lovely communal area here?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The partial mowing of the verges after the 50km sign arriving from the Drumcliffe road is a very simple and effective way of marking your arrival at the village.

The boundary of the field opposite Laura's is one area where the landowner and yourselves could work together. The current wire fence could better contain livestock through the joint planting of a native wildlife hedge that would also blend better into this rural setting.

General Impression:

Your adjudicator wishes you luck with your longer term plans. You have a good central focus to your village. It was very pleasant to enjoy a visit to Carney and wander down the riverwalk. Your community has put a lot of effort in this year in litter clean ups, landscaping and wildlife activities - well done.