

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange** Ref: **750**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **250**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	32	33
The Built Environment	50	33	35
Landscaping	50	37	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Litter Control	50	36	35
Tidiness	30	15	16
Waste Minimisation	20	8	7
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>250</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Grange to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and thank you for your application. You provided some lovely pictures and a detailed entry form. It was great to arrive during your preparations for the Celtic Fringe Festival as the bunting and the artistic flags looked very well. The new playground and green gym facilities look great and well done on choosing a colour scheme that will blend with the local environment. These are excellent facilities to have and were in good use at the time of the visit. The green flag was flying proudly at your National School.

Your five year plan is very comprehensive with some good targets and proposed actions. It would help to have a column to make which of the proposed actions have been completed or postponed and for what reasons. It will always make it clear what has been achieved in the last 12 months of the competition. Again a better map would be beneficial to your adjudicator – maybe this could be a project for a TY student to draft a suitable template that could be used year on year? Do you have a youth rep on your committee?

Grange TidyTown Committee has great support and links in with many other bodies and agencies for support and guidance – well done. You have a great number that turn out for events demonstrating the support you have for your work.

### The Built Environment:

The village has some very good facilities and local amenities with GAA grounds, sports complex, playgrounds etc. Your adjudicator enjoyed the new facilities in St Molaisse's park, the colours of which blended very well with their natural environment.

The courthouse looks very well as did the Garda Station – the matching blue flowers in beds outside were admired too. The painting and sign writing at Lang's were lovely and the old traditional gates were admired at Waters. Your work at this end of the town was noted since your adjudicator's last visit to Grange and helps this area. Perhaps the old signs for the now closed Mullaney's could be removed from the front of this building to help it blend in more with the area? The new Post Office is located in a stretch of premises where the concrete top of the wall is not finished. Completion of this could make a big visual difference to this area.

The old bridge was admired as you approach the secondary school.

### **Landscaping:**

You have some lovely planted beds throughout the park with a lovely variety of perennials and shrubs. This is a great example of long-term planting providing year-round structure. The trees planted to soften the park from the road have taken well - this is excellent. You have paid particular detail to ensuring that all the recent works in St Molaise's park have not impacted on the river here and it looks very well especially as you have maintained essential tree cover over much of the river. Thank you also for submitting the picture of the daffodils in bloom – lovely!

The large planters by the Seamus O Dainin cottage added a nice feel to this busy area of the village.

There is a lovely planted bed at the other end of the village, just opposite the Garda Station. Behind here is a lovely old stone wall but the planting of small flowers here are nearly lost. Maybe different species would sit better here?

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

Having a designated Special Area of Conservation (Streedagh Point Dunes SAC) on your doorstep with some of the best coastal wildlife habitats in Europe, there is a lot of scope for you to develop wildlife trails and raise awareness of these important habitats. Thus your adjudicator was delighted to see this detailed in your five year plan.

The construction and erection of bird and bat boxes will be great to enhance local wildlife in the village and surrounds. Bat walks are always very popular as the use of equipment to hear bats echolocate helps with the understanding of Ireland's protected flying mammals.

Possibly the inside boundary wall of the secondary school could have native climbing plants growing along the inside here to please the eye whilst also providing more shelter and food for wildlife?

You have a lot of the invasive plant Japanese Knotweed growing on the site opposite the secondary school which will need treated correctly. Details on treatment etc [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com).

### **Litter Control:**

Well done on all your clean up throughout the village and along Streedagh Strand. The Bring Banks looked very well so compliments to yourselves and the garage for their management of this. Approach roads were litter free. However, there was quite a bit of litter on Courthouse Drive in Grange when your adjudicator visited.

### **Tidiness:**

Arriving from Sligo the unfinished edge of the road in front of new premises looks very poor – eg. upturned blue bins are used to cover/protect certain areas. Work in this area will make a great difference and will help gain points in this category.

There are quite a number of larger signs on and around premises at the Sligo end of the village that look quite busy. Once new businesses have opened here it is hoped that more permanent ones will add to the look of this area. You will be pleased to note that the very large NDP funded sign 2000-2006 is now beyond the necessary time for it to be erected and it can be removed.

There were some temporary signs up on adjudication day – some finger signs for an internet company and a referendum poster. Half a flag was flying on a flagpost outside SuperValu. There were some overhead wires at the Bundoran end of the village but thankfully these have been put underground throughout the rest of the village.

The phone box on the main street was clean and in working order. It is suggested you erect a metric height notification sign on the barrier to the park.

**Waste Minimisation:**

This category of the competition is not just about segregating litter. The main emphasis is to prevent waste production through schemes and initiatives eg. composting seminars, school book rental schemes, electronic communications etc. Consider where are the grass clippings from the park composted? Do you use your own compost in your planters? Ideas for this category are included in your competition handbook.

**Residential Areas:**

There was a surprisingly large number of homes off Chapel Road - all looked very well and a nice area to live. It is suggested that the advertising hoarding be removed from Granary Drive. It was also good to see contractors erecting fencing at the unfinished end here. The estate opposite the secondary school looked well but no name was obvious.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Arriving from Bundoran there are lovely trees on both sides. There were some potholes on estate roads off Chapel Road. Enhancement is needed as you arrive into the village from Sligo. Works on the pull-in area in front of the veterinary offices could make a difference here.

**General Impression:**

Grange does not have an easy task in the national Tidy Towns competition with the main N15 bringing traffic through the centre of your village and the numerous developments drawing businesses from the traditional hub towards the Sligo side of the village. But your vibrant and dedicated community have worked hard to consider how to best deal with this. Your revamped St Molaise's Community Park provides a lovely green facility for the village and for passers-by. Well done on your strategic planning and your hard work!