

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Carrick-on-Suir** Ref: **301**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **262**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **15/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	50	37	38
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	25
Litter Control	50	17	17
Tidiness	30	16	16
Waste Minimisation	20	10	10
Residential Areas	40	34	34
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	36
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>262</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of six members and other volunteers are to be commended on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. It is good that you receive support in your community and from public agencies in your area. As mentioned in our 2011 report you will need a three year plan to help you set out priorities. Thank you for the map of the area on which you marked four areas to visit. Because of the size of Carrick on Suir we advise that you obtain a more comprehensive map and indeed we noted a better map of the town centre on the information signs.

### **The Built Environment:**

Signs of Carrick on Suir having suffered because of the recession are evident with the level of dereliction in many streets. Main Street and Westgate were in good condition, attention to weeds is needed at the car park entrance. The shops on New Street looked fine and the paving was in good repair. The Town Hall is a fine building and the well surfaced car park was fronted with a good hedge and we noted the baskets on the poles. We also admired the hornbeam trees. On approaching Ormond Castle we were disappointed to see the dereliction of walls and the placing of two empty plant containers at the piers is not a positive addition. It was a shame to see some dereliction in Castle Street with hoarding erected at Skehan's bar. The hanging baskets effort by a resident in the street was noted. The church looked well but nearby weeds were growing on the chimney of Roberto's Pizzeria. The information sign was well placed and made interesting reading. The prominent Garda Station building looked well. Dillon's Bridge looks well with good views beyond. The sculpture overlooking the town was impressive. St. Mary's Cemetery was clean and tidy and the boundary wall looked well. The disused burial ground was clean as was the grotto. The grass here could do with cutting. Friary House looked well and the trees enhance the area. The older Friary is a problem with maintenance needs being evident. The Famine Wall and cemetery was fine and the grotto well maintained. Carrickbeg Church and St. Molleráin's looked well with its stone wall and piers, as did the cemetery opposite.

The "Clancy Brothers" mural is significant for Carrick on Suir and we admired the "Tannery" mural near the West Gate and the Sean Kelly plaque. Carrig Hotel was well presented. The new wall and footpath on The Quay looked well and the mural across the river was eye catching. We noted the hanging basket displays on the poles. The facades of the new buildings provide good frontage for The Quays. Sean Kelly Sports Centre was well painted and had some planting. The grass was well maintained. The Esso Station on the Waterford Road was clean but the landscape needs improvement.

### **Landscaping:**

Clonmel is fortunate to have a lovely town park with wonderful trees and some interesting specimens which are in good condition. The statue needs cleaning. The planted "Carrick on Suir Heritage and Leisure" is a major feature which impacts greatly and looked well. Castle Park and other amenities such as the River Suir and riverside parks add to the important assets in the area. The fine specimens of trees throughout the town add great character and the newer planting of hornbeams make good impact. The riverside Sean Healy Park is impressive. It had lovely trees, was well presented and the significant memorial was quite interesting. Large wooden plant containers at Pill Street contained trees. For long term benefit and less maintenance it would be better to have them planted directly in the ground.

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

Carrick on Suir is lucky to have a major river flowing through its community. It is part of a special area of conservation and so is one of the most important sites for wildlife in Ireland with opportunities for education and recreation. Therefore some information on the flora and fauna in your community would be helpful in gaining marks in this section. As recommended in 2011, contact the Irish Wildlife Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to assist you in developing more environmental awareness.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter management is a problem for Carrick on Suir as evidenced by the amount of litter and weeds observed throughout. What is your system of collecting? Do you liaise with the schools and encourage children to become involved. It is important that you get on top of this matter as soon as possible.

### **Tidiness:**

The dereliction of some buildings is adding to the untidiness problem. Weeds at the kerb greeted us on the Waterford Road and there were cable ties from the elections still visible on the poles. A clutter of signs appears at Three Bridges Business Park. A galvanised shed near Tinvane Park needs painting. There is much untidiness at the site of the former window company. Weeds and litter were observed in the area at Pill Road/New Street junction. Weeds in gutters were evident on a number of derelict buildings. The area around the Co-op is a major problem with untidiness and weeds. There is a need for some urgent maintenance at the old Friary building and grounds. The walls are breaking up and weeds spoil the view of the grotto. It was a pity to see weeds in the entrance beds of Sean Healy Park and some chipboard lying in the grass.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We note that you segregate litter collected in your community. Do you have any information on quantities recycled. The Bring Banks were well maintained although some litter was seen and the sign needed cleaning. The planting of climbing plants such as ivy would successfully screen the wall. Congratulations to the Presentation Primary School on achieving three green flags. It is a most important achievement under this heading. Activities to consider are liaising with shopkeepers regarding packaging and the re-use of shopping baskets.

### **Residential Areas:**

Tinvane Park housing estate was marked with overgrown and weedy planting at the estate sign. The local park looks well but would benefit from tree planting. In Castle Park the estate looked well, and is enhanced by the fine park with its trees and the castle. An Bóthar Buí estate had some weeds as did Sweet Auburn estate and the grass needs cutting on the outside of the wall here and at Suirmont Nursing Home. Manor Gate estate was clean and tidy; the wall opposite the estate has some weeds. Castle Court estate has lovely established trees and the grass was well cut. The climbing plants on the wall at the open space will in time impact well. Brookdale open space was fine, the sign a little difficult to read.

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

The approach from Waterford which is marked by motor car firms would benefit by some street tree planting. Further on the large "Carrick on Suir" boxwood sign looks well and is well maintained. An attractive stone wall (old and new) was noted on the town side of the railway bridge and further on, the approach looks well being marked with a stand of mature trees. The flower bed at the town centre sign was neatly done. Abbey Road was fine. At Carrick Beg, the sign in hedge form was noted. It looks well, the few pots with flowers are

unnecessary in this location.

**General Impression:**

We have noted your efforts with floral displays throughout the town to enhance its appearance. You have a number of challenges to overcome, chiefly among them being dereliction of unused buildings and sites.