

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emly** Ref: **641**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **310**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2012**
28/07/2012

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	42	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35	36
Litter Control	50	41	40
Tidiness	30	23	23
Waste Minimisation	20	11	12
Residential Areas	40	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39	39
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	400	309	310

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 21 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 the school is represented by two members on your committee. Your extensive links with the local authority and other public bodies as well as community support contribute to your success in having achieved so many awards in years past. Many thanks for your three year plan (on CD), your diary, photographs and scrapbook and the Heritage leaflet. You are well experienced and successful in this and other competitions. Your application form was very useful.

The Built Environment:

Your built environment has a number of very interesting and well maintained structures and these are highlighted with your Heritage Trail leaflet and signage. We noted the new oval signs throughout the village, they looked very well and were very informative. The creamery was well painted and the ivy was doing a good job on the wall, the gravel area and fence were clean. Callanan's shop was well painted. The boundary of O'Donnell Engineering is well treated with a wall and railing and Cotoneaster softening at the wall. The Village Pump was painted and clean. The Grotto was clean and tidy with a strong blue colour. The GAA have done a good job of covering the boundary wall with plants. There were trees growing outside from which some stakes should be removed. The well located tennis courts had a high standard of maintenance. It is suggested that a hedge might successfully soften the impact of the chain link fence. The stone built school and wall were in very good condition. We were impressed with the "Snow White" mural on the vacant house. St. Ailbe's Cemetery was in good condition. Plants were nicely trimmed at the entrance and the gate and crucifix were well painted. Duhig House was a fine structure with its well painted door, windows and railing. The Church and its grounds were impressive as was the memorial to Emly's emigrants outside the wall. We took your advice and paid a visit to the toilet behind the Church. It is luxurious and well maintained. What a

rarity for Ireland. The pump at Donie's Corner is a nice feature that forms a village landmark and the information boards behind told us something of Emly. The Post office is well painted as was the house opposite and plant containers enhanced the appearance. Halla Naomh Ailbe was well painted, its ivy clad porch is impressive. McGrath Oil was tidy and we note the steps being taken to further improve its appearance. We noted the well-kept machinery display. It is an interesting and appropriate feature for your community. The Old Barracks was in excellent condition and we noted the new windows. The Old Hall was well painted. The Old Thatch Pub looked fine but there were debris and potholes in the car park.

Landscaping:

The fruits of your efforts in landscaping are clear to see and the plants are so well established that your focus should now be on regular pruning to maintain them healthy and in good shape for the future. The planting on the left as you approach from the Tipperary Road is a case in point. This has now grown very well and in a short while will encroach on the road unless it is managed. At present it is hiding some signage. Too often such planting is just clipped and the individual character of the plants is lost to a hedge. To avoid this from happening you will need to thin out this planting and maintain them back to a narrower width. Trees are a most important structural element of the landscape and the best example of these in Emly is on the Fairgreen at St. Ailbe's Drive. You should aim to have the street trees elsewhere as strong as these. In this regard the specimens on Main Street are less impressive. You should aim to replace these with a single species such as hornbeam, lime, hawthorn or maple. The use of wall/climbing plants to screen walls has been very successful in Emly and you have many good examples. Flowers at the Tipperary Galbally sign are not necessary. At the opposite corner there is space to provide a planted feature that would make better impact by removing some of the hard surface. Such a feature might also be instrumental in improving safety at this junction. St. Ailbhe's Drive (Fairgreen) was a pleasant linear park with fine mature trees and the grass was well maintained. The Four Season's Park is a delight. It is very interesting, thoughtfully designed and well maintained. We noted the resurfaced paths. We noted the planting of holly and hazel; these native plants are a good choice.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Wildlife Garden at the Church is a novel idea and well developed. This is a valuable asset for environmental education. We noted the wild bee huts and insect hotels. We are glad to learn that you had some visitors to the bird nesting boxes. The old sewerage surrounds are now a wildlife area. This is a fitting use in that location. We note that you have acted upon the suggestion from the 2011 report in removing the laurels from Glen Court entrance.

Litter Control:

We note your success in the National Spring Clean. Your on going efforts in cleaning up Glen Court and other areas in your community are admirable. We noted that you collected 18 bags of rubbish in the clean-up

Tidiness:

Your efforts in cleaning the road signs and painting field gates were worthwhile; no dirty signs or gates were seen on adjudication day. At the Central Garage rubbish in the window was visible from the street. Pots of flowers brightened up the forecourt. Bindweed was getting hold on some planting at the Cemetery Gate and a few weeds were in the pavement. It was a good idea to tidy up the area opposite the GAA grounds and hopefully works will re-commence soon.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre was the best we have ever seen on our journeys to Tidy Towns. It was well tucked into a secluded area with landscape treatment, water feature and was spotless. We admired the decoration of old cans on the bin. As with GAA clubs in other areas the scrap metal collection of 40 tons was a good idea. Congratulations on your performance in saving 12% energy over the six month period through your participation in the Energy Neighbours scheme. McGraths are very progressive for using rainwater for washing lorries and the use of solar panels. Well done on introducing water butts to the village, no doubt they were always full this summer. Your idea of mixing left over paint is a good way to reduce waste. Congratulations to the school for their success in the green flag programme having already achieved two. The use of sheep as mowers in the unused part of the new graveyard and the banks of the sides of the GAA field was a unique venture. We enjoyed your Bubble Gum story and hope that it is working.

Residential Areas:

St. Ailbe's Drive was a beautiful estate with the houses well painted and the gardens well maintained. Houses in Galtee View estate were well presented. Gort na Manach housing estate was looking well. We noted the Pyracanthas planted against the walls however, some are lying down for need of being trained against the wall with supports. The wall opposite was successfully covered with Cotoneaster. The Forge Close estate had good wall planting and a well painted pump. Glen Court estate looked unfinished. It needs trees on the

open space and in the gardens. We note your encouragement and support with the annual garden and window box competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We did not see a village sign on our approach from Tipperary. The sign near the village just beyond Callanan's shop is quite hidden with vegetation. On other roads the attractively designed "Welcome" signs look faded. On the Pallasgreen Road, the grass was well cut. On the Galbally Road there was a sensitive approach to grass cutting and there was no evidence of litter or weeds. The concrete wall here was well masked with plants. We were particularly taken by the Solar water feature on the Knocklong Road with two metal heron figures. This is an excellent way to highlight a prominent corner and to incorporate directional road signs with planting.

General Impression:

Emly is a success story and you are continuing to make progress on the implementation of many improvements. We note that you actively respond to the adjudicator's comments and we hope that this year's report will be helpful for your future programme.

Second Round Adjudication:

Emly looked wonderful on the day of second adjudication; most buildings looked exceptionally well, flowers and plants were thriving and landscaping in general was admired. Your second adjudicator found the same as the first regarding the pyracantha which needs to be fixed to a support to fulfil its function of clothing the wall here. Planting at the base of trees to the roadside of the boundary walls of the sports ground is unnecessary, the trees have their own beauty and do not need to be enhanced further; the planting will inhibit the growth of the trees and should be removed. Well done on the public toilet behind the church, what a relief to find that it was not locked as most are when needed! One wonders at the chain barrier to the entrance of the Four Seasons Park and why it is necessary, it is unlikely to deter vandals, only the less agile amongst us like your adjudicator will be stopped! A number of wild life areas were noted, are these connected and mapped? Wild life fingerpost signs are noted, your plan to undertake a wildlife survey and develop a wild life trail is applauded together with an information panel in the village centre. It is good to note an energy saving of 12% due to your ongoing participation in the Green Homes initiative. We note the intention to undertake a waste audit and eagerly anticipate a similar reduction in waste generated at source in addition to ongoing reduce, reuse and recycling. Well done on your garden and window box competitions and every success in the awards for which nominated.