

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hollyford** Ref: **537**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **256**
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	34	34
Landscaping	50	33	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Litter Control	50	37	37
Tidiness	30	16	16
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254	256

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of three 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 including FAS. Thanks for supplying a copy of your draft plan. It is clear that you have a number of objectives aimed at enhancing your village for its people. The next step is to identify a list of projects that will deliver your objectives and phase the implementation of these for future years. Hollyford is nestled in a lovely part of the country with scenic hills all around and you have many assets to build upon. Thank you for your sketch map and ordnance survey map of the area.

The Built Environment:

The approach from Dundrum is marked by the very impressive grotto. This must be one of the finest grottos in Ireland and it is most interesting because of the natural rock face. The work done here on resurfacing the area, cleaning, painting the wall and providing the timber screen is impressive. We admired the foxgloves and the gold litter bin. The metal bridge over the Multeen River is less impressive. The railings need painting and repair. An interesting project would be the replacement of the metal sidings with stone walls to match the bridge in the village. We noted the works on-going on the thatched house. The painted ball alley was noted. The school looked well and was adorned with window boxes. The grounds are enclosed with a fine stone wall. The church and cemetery on the hill overlooking the village is attractive with its splendid views of the Galtee Mountains and local hills. The church looks very well but St. Joseph's statue could do with painting. No doubt the plan to paint the walls around the monuments opposite the church was delayed because of the wet weather. In the village the commercial shops such as Ryan's Stores and Jimmy Ryan Rues are well maintained as is the Credit Union so well done for their efforts. The Community Hall looks well also but regrettably, Hollyford is not exempt from empty buildings which are falling into disrepair. The entrance to the

creamery yard allows a view to an untidy area which should be improved. The pump and its surroundings are well maintained. A green shed on the left behind Jimmy Ryan Rues looks fine.

Landscaping:

Be careful in the use of floral displays; your village has so much natural beauty, they are simply not needed. For example, four plant containers are placed outside the cemetery wall. The wall looks fine and does not need them (one of them is broken). The guideline for containers is to use them only when you are unable to plant directly in the ground. Therefore, consider taking a small corner/s immediately inside the cemetery and planting some shrubs there instead. They will need less maintenance and will not have to be watered. Another option is a low hedge on both sides of the pathway. We noted the recent planting along the wall in the church yard. It is well maintained. There is an opportunity to implement a planting scheme on the triangular area opposite the school. This would help to reduce its untidiness and enhance the area. Planting at the ball alley was also noted. The use of wall plants would help to soften the impact of the newly plastered wall.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Multeen River is a wonderful asset for your community and it looked clean. The Millennium garden feature beside the river at the bridge is well maintained and enhances the village. Your environment is surrounded by a wealth of flora and fauna. It would be an interesting project for the school children to carry out a survey of the flora as a means of developing their interest and knowledge of their surroundings.

Litter Control:

Your litter management is very effective as very little litter was evident on adjudication day. Some litter was noted in the ball alley car park. Well done on your efforts in this regard and on keeping the litter bins cleaned and emptied.

Tidiness:

Hollyford is a very tidy community with one major exception. Few weeds exist in the cemetery where the graves are well maintained and the grass is mown. There were some weeds at the base of the wall at the church. The new sewerage scheme which no doubt is an important facility for the community would benefit the area visually if a hedge was established against the boundary fencing. A timber pallet lying in the hedge beside a gate at O'Connells should be removed. The small garage on the side of the hill behind Jimmy Ryan Rues is less pleasing and is in need of improvement. The area around the metal bridge has poles, walls, boxes and manhole covers all of which present an untidy appearance. Opposite the bridge, to the right of the thatch, an entrance and flanking wall is in need of attention. An old pole on the ground in the ball alley car park should be removed. The Old Forge was painted on the front walls but the yard around it is weedy and untidy. This could be enhanced and made into an information point; perhaps pictures (if available) of its former activities could be displayed.

Waste Minimisation:

We have noted your work in promoting recycling operations by the collection of old batteries and electrical materials. The collection of clothes for charities is also a help and we wish the school well in their endeavour to obtain a green flag. It is good to see the bring banks being available beside the ball alley.

Residential Areas:

The residential houses in Hollyford are in general well painted and their gardens are well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Hollyford village are appropriately landscaped with the emphasis being on the surrounding landscape. The signs were clean but in some cases the supporting poles and the rear of the signs need to be painted. The sawmill operation is a major problem for you especially as it exists on both sides of the road with material deposited on the road surface. The timber fencing is a help in screening the activity but it is hoped that at some future date the enterprise could find a more suitable location. The stone wall around the bridge in the village is very impressive and enhances this area.

General Impression:

Well done on your achievements to date. You are aware of what is required to progress your submission in future years. We hope that this report helps to assist you further in your approach.

