

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullinahone** Ref: **1055**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **257**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	31	32
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19	22
Litter Control	50	34	36
Tidiness	30	15	15
Waste Minimisation	20	9	12
Residential Areas	40	33	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>257</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled out entry form, map and support material that included the very helpful photographs. I note you have a committee of 6 members and a group of around 20 people, and good to find that the meetings are well attended. You are holding plenty meetings to monitor progress and plan ahead. With the bodies that you have listed you have certainly brought the community with you and this will ensure that this famous village will become a safer and better place to live in. The parishioners are well informed of your activities and you did a great job of informing the people of the spring clean up. It is positive that you have communications with the local school. We are pleased to learn that you are getting enjoyment from the competition.

The Kickham County Weekend and the GAA underage tournament are great ways of getting the people to meet locals and tourists.

All of this means you have a good approach to the competition.

### The Built Environment:

Many thanks for the photographs supplied and this made it easy for me to find these places that you have highlighted. Starting on a somewhat negative topic the dereliction. My initial reaction is that there is an unusually large amount of places that have fallen into a derelict state, but now I must congratulate your committee for highlighting this situation. You are going about the dereliction in a very responsible manner by getting the County Council involved, and we wish you well with the outcome. It is a pity that this has developed and we have sympathy with some of the owners that it has happened to mainly caused by this severe downturn in business throughout Ireland that has hit almost every town and village. In the meantime before much can be done in a permanent way with the buildings you could try to persuade the owners to paint the houses, and we often see temporary measures where the boarded up windows and doors are

camouflaged with attractive artwork. You could offer to do this yourselves and get the owners to pay the costs. If you do get clearance to proceed with doing the work I recommend that you contact one of the paint companies and seek their advice and they could sponsor some paint or maybe give it free to you, and I have heard that they could give professional advice on paint types and colours. We never know but maybe this could create some local employment – but be careful on the insurance!!

I was thrilled to stand outside the residence of Charles Kickham (1828-1882), and I felt like singing “Alone all alone” but I left the singing to another occasion. I was indeed delighted to see the sculpture of Mr Kickham in the park across the road from the church and well done to all concerned with the erection and maintenance of this sculpture.

### **Landscaping:**

Some fine mature trees and fantastic traditional stone walls around Mullinahone give an attractive landscape in a natural way and require little intervention only regular maintenance. The hedge is coming on well at the church and behind the litter bins. The planters provide freshness and colour to the surroundings. There is nice landscaping at the school and in the fine open spaces at the back of the school. The graveyard looked supreme and congratulations to all concerned with its upkeep. Other attractive bits of landscaping give colour and freshness to the surroundings.

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

It is pleasing to find that you have commissioned a survey of the wildlife of the area, and this is the best approach. You mention the schoolchildren and I recommend that you could consider running a local competition maybe artistic or an essay for the children to tell us all about the wildlife of this lovely part of Tipperary. This could maybe be done in conjunction with the school and of course funded by your committee, and what better way to get the children involved in wildlife matters, but we are well aware that there is a lot going on already in this school. The planting of suitable wildlife trees and shrubs could of course benefit the landscaping of the area.

### **Litter Control:**

The photographs tell the story of this very satisfactory work to collect the litter on Good Friday – a splendid effort, well done. You probably now have an idea of litter black spots and may be able to prohibit or stop indiscriminate disposal of litter. A fantastic job was done at the back of the litter bins and I am delighted to report that the area was spotlessly clean on my visit.

### **Tidiness:**

The busy Co Op could perhaps plant a hedge (beech) or a few suitable trees to enhance the aesthetics of this area, and maybe give a hand with the maintenance of the green area across the road. That is an impressive statue at the cross near the Co Op. Good to find that you have some issues being attended to by the County Council around the village. We are aware of the dereliction problems that leave the town untidy in some places, and the state of the tennis court gives a bad impression on entering the town

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The statement the school lead the community in waste minimisation says it all, and we must straight away congratulate all concerned with the teaching of best practices that are implemented in regard to waste minimisation. It is now a matter of the children teaching the parents, and of course the children, parents and teachers are looking after the local environment in a responsible way.

The three international Green Flags for litter free, conserving energy and water conservation together with Walk on Wednesdays Campaign part of the fourth flag are great achievements and then we have the victory in the Best Water Conservation Project award in the Tidy Schools Competition and finally Best Overall School in the County in the Tidy Schools Competition – there certainly is a lot going on in that school.

### **Residential Areas:**

Generally speaking the estates are well presented but I did see in Cois na hAbhainn a site that was most untidy with all types of material discarded there, and down at the end of this estate there was a portion of land left in a rough condition. The houses in this estate are very well presented and it appears that the developer left it in the way described. The new estate that has the large boulders positioned by the roadside has some nice houses, but it is sad to see one of the new houses is boarded up. There is a lovely estate up from the school with good landscaping. The town houses were in good condition and some really beautiful stand alone houses had great displays of flowers, trees, shrubs and lawns that really stood out.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

I could appreciate your concerns about the lack of a footpath linking Blackthorn Walk with the village. Great stone walls make sturdy fencing along the roadsides, and a good example of this is found at the impressive entrance to Killaghy Castle. Some ivy is present on walls, and you could find out from the county council if this ivy should be removed or left to grow on. Bumpy patches are in some road surfaces, but for the most part the roads are in good condition

**General Impression:**

You are making great strides to improve Mullinahone, and I congratulate your professional approach.