

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ardclough** Ref: **353**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **271**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	34	37
The Built Environment	50	35	35
Landscaping	50	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	35
Litter Control	50	26	27
Tidiness	30	19	20
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	34
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>271</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for an excellent entry in this, your fifth year in the competition. The Community Council is to be congratulated on the progress that you have made in this short time and the highly organised nature of the information you submitted that was comprehensive but easy to follow and clearly sets out your actions and plans. These are summarised succinctly in your plan of which you have entered the fourth year. Many thanks for the copies of your waste questionnaire, details of your ambitious plans for the (now old) national school. Your wildlife and habitat information was of great interest.

Your group has very strong numbers and it's activities are made clear in your entry. Your work has been supported by several agencies, in particular Kildare County Council for whom you rightly reserved special praise. Do work on the website. Have you considered social media for updates and even distribution of information and materials? Your work with the school is clear and is of special relevance now.

It's great to read of your positive experience of the TidyTowns Competition.

### The Built Environment:

The change in schools is a significant one for the village. Your needs assessment study is an excellent initiative. It is understood that this is ongoing. You are wished well with this. Your work 'up-painting' the derelict cottage was noted. Well done. The church looks as good as ever and the landscape planting here is lovely. The GFC building is neat and looks as much part of the village as any other.

### Landscaping:

There has been some gorgeous work carried out at Wheatfield Upper. The pergola is new to the adjudicator who loved the stepped planters. There is very diligent maintenance on the landscaping here. The bench/planter work was admired. The greens and tree-planting were immaculate. There is beautiful planting at the 'council gates'. It's good to see holly used in landscaping. The landscaping at Lishandra will need work to be at the standard set by the rest of the village.

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

Your many initiatives and actions in this category are greatly admired. Your habitat mapping and cataloguing puts you ahead of many comparable villages. You have a very sound approach to this area and the adjudicator feels that you need little comment here other than appreciation for your diligence. Just to single out a couple of examples, the Feed and Breed project combines habitat enhancement with monitoring and recording; the marsh area survey is highly admirable - this is a valuable habitat type; finally, the wildlife information on the new board is excellent. Keep up the good work, it is very important. Yellow-hammers kept the adjudicator company throughout the visit to Ardclough.

#### **Litter Control:**

Again, the adjudicator feels that there is little to be offered by way of advice in this area. Your anti-litter initiatives are well directed and effective. Almost no litter was seen on adjudication day. Some dog-originated litter was seen.

#### **Tidiness:**

Well done on the treatment of the railway gates. Road signage was clean and neat. The sleeves on the signposts were noted. One was cracked. Are these troublesome to do spot repairs upon? Don't forget to remove older signage such as that for sponsored walks. There is an empty sign frame at the Gaelic grounds and the pedestrian gate here needs to be painted.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on the waste awareness survey. Do you have any results of this or did the adjudicator overlook these? Please do supply an overview of same in subsequent entries. Thanks for all of the detail on the bottle bank in it's splendid new setting. We hope that the Scrap collection was profitable. The list of waste minimisation projects in your plan could be enhanced. The composting is very valid - especially as you now have a new school. However, as a village you should treat the waste survey as a first step.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The work at Wheatfield has already been discussed. Some gardens here are merely very good - several others are outstanding! A high level of care was evident in the entrances and gardens of some private houses.

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

There is a great new footpath to the new school. It was closed off on day of visit, is it not yet complete? Will this be mixed cycle/pedestrian use? The new lighting was noted. Some ramps are crumbling. Most likely due to frost action. Some older gates on the edge of the village are in need of work.

The green area opposite Lishandra was admired. The cherry trees are really lovely. The excellent quality of the verges here was noted. The cypress hedging behind the fencing in the centre of the village was scrupulously neat.

Your new local heritage and wildlife sign is a really great piece of work of which you should be proud. The colours and the style fit in well. The information is well-pitched and of interest.

The new sleeper beds, kerbing and pitch at the GFC grounds were admired. The long flower beds here are a major piece of work.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Ardclough again and even more so when the progress you've made was taken in. Well done on all you've achieved and good luck with progressing the community centre. Thank you.