

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clane** Ref: **368**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **281**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **19/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	42	43
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	42	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29	31
Litter Control	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	10
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>281</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Clane is welcomed to the 2013 TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry, copy of your plan for the town, supporting documentation and map which the adjudicator found very helpful. Your committee of fourteen together with volunteers, local Scouts and two part time Tus workers are working diligently over all the categories in the competition and this work has been noticed.

The competition has been helpful in creating awareness in the community each year on possible issues and areas that need to be developed. Your support from Kildare County Council through funding is acknowledged. Local businesses also give good support through sponsorship and this is also welcomed. Your communication through social media and local newspapers are good means of getting notices to the wider community. The schools Green Schools Scheme is an important area to be involved with, in the area of waste management which is an important category in the TidyTowns competition.

### The Built Environment:

Among some of the well known buildings of Clane are Clongowes Wood College which was visited and is still impressive today. Many buildings of historical interest form the streetscape of this lovely town. The ruins of the Friary are very well preserved and a noted feature in the town, the Abbey graveyard is also well maintained. Many important names were born here, among them Theobald Wolfe Tone who will never be forgotten in Irish History. A modern shopping centre also an important part of the town was noted. Like most towns visited, Clane has its fair share of buildings that are unoccupied like the large house on the corner near the bridge. This area has been addressed and the appearance has been greatly improved. The Church grounds and adjoining house are impressive buildings. The Main Street looked well but the adjudicator felt that more tree planting on Main Street would add to the streetscape. Heavenly Accessories and Ladbroskes looked well with nice window boxes.

Jas Manzor on the corner was very impressive with window boxes and hanging baskets. The playground area with mature trees and nice stream is a lovely amenity and was in much use was admired. Marrons Pharmacy, best presented business in 2012 was also admired.

### Landscaping:

The landscaping and grounds around Abbey Community Hall had some lovely seasonal planting. On the Naas Road some beech hedging was noted. Abbey Park had nice planting at the entrance and some pleasant

planting of trees and shrubs. The roundabout at Celbridge Road sponsored by Supervalu looked splendid. The row of trees along by Aldi also was admired. The tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets throughout the town all add great colour to the town streetscape. The town nameplates with nice seasonal planting were welcoming. The use of many herbaceous plants is welcomed, so is the planting of hedging and trees which will give all year round colour to the town and provide food for wildlife.

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

On entering the town from Naas it was welcoming to see the wildlife signs which were studied with interest. Many more people visiting that has any interest in wildlife will do the same. The unspoilt walk here by the river is enjoying nature at its best. The town has many habitats for wildlife in the river, in the hedgerows and stone walls. Information boards such as the ones noted are very informative to the community. Your guided walks on flora and fauna are also a good educational tool for the community. Your on-going projects on bats and your extension of the nest box scheme will gather more information which will bring a different interest. "Wild about Clane" has moved from identification of local habitats and species to raising awareness and protection of existing biodiversity and habitat enhancement. This has encouraged key people in this field to come on board offering support. Well done on your work with this initiative.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter is an on-going task that has to be taken care of by regular clean-ups and litter picks, in an effort to educate and make people aware of how untidy it can make a town or village look. Your group is doing good work creating awareness among the community. Organisation of a school art competition or delivery of anti-litter presentation to the secondary school are all positive means of educating the youth of the area who will carry the flag in the long term. You are working hard and making every effort to hopefully make Clane a litter free town. There are still pockets of litter to be seen but perseverance will win out in the end. The Litter bins were noted and admired.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

The on-going work in the community in conjunction with the local schools on educating the wider area about waste and how it can be reduced is essential in achieving results. Joining the Green Home programme promotes ideas among the community. Part of this could be a survey of the waste already produced by households in the community and the results would identify areas where waste could be reduced. This area is about reducing the amount of waste that enters Clane in the first instance with less need for recycling. Using lunch boxes instead of wrapping for school lunches is one example of how waste can be reduced. The use of pulped green matter as sustainable mulch in landscaping is another means of reducing waste to landfill. Resource Management in the areas of water, energy and transport such as carpooling, cycling, using rainwater and more efficient use of energy can bring about large savings to the community. The TidyTowns handbook has many more suggestions that could be used in the whole area of waste. Reusing and recycling are also an important part of waste but reducing the amount produced is key.

### **Tidiness:**

There was some degree of untidiness, nothing too major to address but if addressed would make a vast difference to the overall appearance of the town. Weed growth along kerbs is one area that could be addressed early in the season. Graffiti is an on-going problem and you are diligently working to overcome this. Encroaching foliage to Clane sign on the Prosperous Road looked untidy. The bottle banks were untidy with boxes left lying around. A tattered sign at the entrance to Tesco was also noted

### **Residential Areas:**

Well done on organising "Best Kept Estate" Competition. This is a positive way of encouraging and rewarding residents on their work in the estates which also plays a major part in preparing for the national TidyTowns competition. It is also encouraging to see that the residents are creating areas for wildflowers/wildlife as part of their landscaping. The planting of tree avenues is also admired. The estates visited were presented to a high standard and it is encouraging for the committee the support they receive from the residents in clean-ups and combatting litter and graffiti. There was a good mix of houses throughout the town and like most towns it has expanded outwards creating a seamless transition of well-presented houses, nicely landscaped with neat gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets all adding their own attractiveness to the streetscape. Well done to all for their work in this category.

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

The approach roads gave a good first impression to the town. Approaching from Naas this road had nice beech hedging, the bridge looked good and the wildlife signs gave encouragement to the visitor to stop and sample the unspoilt nature walk by the river. The roundabouts to the town were also admired and the help of maintaining these through sponsorship offers good support. Some uneven surfaces on approach roads were noted in particular on the Prosperous Road. Roadside walls and hedging were generally well maintained.

### **General Impression:**

The adjudicators visit to Clane was enjoyed. The town has many historical places of interest to visit, nice walks

to enjoy and with your continuing work in the competition it has the potential to progress further in the competition. Thank you for participating and you are wished continued success.