

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nurney**

Ref: **1965**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **26/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	50	30	32
Landscaping	50	31	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	22
Litter Control	50	26	27
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	16	17
Residential Areas	40	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	400	210	225

Overall Development Approach:

Nurney Tidy Towns is welcomed to the 2013 competition. Thank you for your application and copy of your development plan up to 2015. Your committee of seven engage well with all the relevant agencies and businesses and this is important in obtaining assistance to achieve your goals. Your communication through Facebook and the parish newsletter is good way of getting the word around. Involvement with the local school through talks and assistance is also important. This way the community help each other and the area is benefitting from the good projects that have been completed. Throughout the country most villages and towns have seen a great increase in housing developments and a big increase in population. These changes can bring pressure on the community to address the issues that occur as a result of an increasing population.

The Built Environment:

One cannot but notice the pride of this community in the presentation of its Church and graveyard which is well maintained together with the old stone wall. Scoil Bride is so bright and welcoming that the adjudicator would not mind been back at school here, well done on its presentation. The Montessori School was also admired, however some of the railings needs repair and painting. The village pump a lovely feature needs to have encroaching foliage cut back. The GAA pitch was also visited an important amenity in the community. Kelly's Gala Shop and car park was well presented. Daybreak filling station when work is complete will add to the streetscape. The children's playground is a nice new amenity in the village and brings an important attractive feature to the village. The Ball Alley could do with a face lift. It is good to see the Irish Language been used on signage. Well done.

Landscaping:

The village had many fine areas of landscaping. The planting at the new children's playground was admired, with some lovely beds of roses. The green area at the car park was well maintained and the tubs of flowers on the railings complimented this area. The pump with its nice planting also looked well. The use of many herbaceous plants and hedge planting bring all year round colours to the village and this type of planting is encouraged for beauty and wildlife. The village also has some nice trees that form the frame of the village boundary and it is good to see that the children are involved in planting and maintaining trees. Well done on your work in this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area has some lovely areas of planting which provides habitats for wildlife. Having the school children involved with the tree planting gives way to progressing the work with the school further, by identifying the names of trees and plants in the area and displaying information sourced on an information board. The river is another good source for wildlife and an area that could also be developed for nature walks. You have started this process by planting wildflowers on the river bank and attending workshops on biodiversity. Do continue planting native trees and plants that will create more corridors for wildlife.

Litter Control:

Nurneys s participation in An Taisce Spring Clean is a positive way of getting the community involved combatting litter in the area. This was evident on day of adjudication as the village had what is termed small amounts of fresh litter with some noticed around the Gala shop car park and Church view. Do include the schoolchildren in as many litter picks as possible as this will help you achieve your goal in educating the community in making the area litter free.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The area of understanding on waste minimisation has caused some problems for villages and towns in the past. It is hoped that the information supplied with this year's Tidy Town's application will alleviate this and give the communities a clearer understanding on how the amount of waste produced in the community can be reduced. It is noted from your application form that you have signed up to the Green Homes initiative and are also involved with the schools on waste minimisation initiatives. Ideally a member of the Tidy Towns committee should be on the Green Schools committee. There are many ways how waste can be reduced such as composting grass and reusing as compost on beds. To best identify areas where waste can be reduced carry out a waste survey with your group and the results of this survey will indicate the areas where waste can be reduced in your community. Do enclose a copy of the survey with your Tidy Town's application.

Tidiness:

There was generally an air of tidiness in the village. There was some weed growth at the parish car park. There were children's crossing signs that needs cleaning or replacing. At the Ball Alley graffiti was noted as was the rusty ironwork. Nothing too major that would improve the tidiness of the village.

Residential Areas:

The Tidy Towns have done great work assisting the residents on maintaining their area. Your on-going work with Brookfield Estate is proving worthwhile and it is important for the residents that you are negotiating with relevant bodies to have areas completed. Castleraven Estate was admired. It is good to see nameplates in Irish and English. There was some nice tree planting here and the adjudicator felt that some herbaceous planting at the corner of the green area would bring all year round colours. Many private houses were noted and admired. They all added to the attractiveness of the village with well-maintained lawns and plants.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were generally well maintained with nice well-kept verges. The nameplates in Irish and English are a welcome approach to the village. As the saying goes first impressions are important and your nameplates gives your area a good one. The stone walls are also eye-catching, in particular the area down from the church. There was however as stated earlier railings needing repair outside the Montessori School and the encroaching foliage at the pump needs to be cut back. On the Kildangan road some gates need painting.

General Impression:

Nurney having been visited for the first time by this year's adjudicator shows many signs of progression. Your engagement with the School and Agencies indicates a good committee that has pride in their area and wants to see development happening. The area has many fine amenities available and no doubt these will grow in the coming years. You have done good work over all the categories for this year's competition. Good luck in the future.