

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Prosperous** Ref: **780**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **210**
Category: **C** Date(s): **19/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	50	28	30
Landscaping	50	29	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17	18
Litter Control	50	23	23
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	5	5
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	28	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	201	210

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry form for the 2013 competition. Your committee of four people together with your community employment worker are diligently working to enhance the village. The other important source of contact in the village is the local school. This is important as most schools are involved in the green schools initiative and this helps to create an awareness of the competition throughout the community. Your communication by newsletter as a means of getting the message out to the community is also important as this is only your second year in the competition. It is new to the committee and it is good that people are taking notice of the work you do. As suggested by last year's adjudicator a simple plan for the village of achievable goals would be of great assistance to your committee going forward. You may have someone in your group that would help put a plan together, also work with Kildare County Council as they are a great source of support through funding and assistance. Local businesses are also good assistance through sponsorship or even volunteering to help maintain their own areas. Setting up residents associations is another way of gaining volunteers as well as support in your work.

The Built Environment:

Prosperous is similar to a lot of villages and towns with unoccupied houses that need attention. Your approach of contacting the owners and Kildare County Council in an effort to improve their appearance is positive. The post office an important part of the streetscape was admired. The pump on this street with the nice tub of flowers was noted.

The stone building of the parish centre, the schools, the nice sculptor in the grounds of the secondary school and the church all looked superb, neat and tidy and all important features of the village. The GAA park (gates here are in need of painting) and pitch and putt grounds are important amenities for the community. Dowlings bar and Mace shopping area looked neat and tidy, also admired was Black Stick place.

Landscaping:

There were some nice tubs of flowers and hanging baskets throughout the village. There were also some nice mature trees along with well-presented gardens. The village pump had a nice tub of colourful flowers. Continue to maintain your existing landscaped areas and where possible when planting new areas, plant all year round herbaceous plants, hedging and trees. This will give all year round colour to the village provides food for wildlife and help save funds on landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village has lovely areas of hedging and mature trees, also stone walls that are natural habitats for wildlife. The canal is also a superb amenity for the village. It provides a natural resource for wildlife in the overgrowth along the edge and in the canal itself. Developing a nature walk along the canal is one project that could be considered working with the schoolchildren. Carrying out a survey of wildlife along the canal bank, assistance on doing this could be obtained and would provide useful information for the community.

Litter Control:

Putting in place a plan of how best to combat litter and create an anti-litter awareness among the community is one way of achieving results. Working with the school is a means of getting more people involved. Doing a national spring clean and regular litter picks during the summer are other ways of seeing results. On day of adjudication litter was not a major problem and as you progress in the competition litter awareness among the community will be more evident.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

It is positive that you are creating a public awareness through your newsletter and schools on waste minimisation in the community. The green schools initiative is a good initiative for the committee to be involved with, as it will help educate the community in the whole area of waste. The Tidy Town's handbook is a good reference to have to help familiarise your committee on how to reduce waste. Reusing and recycling are all ways of dealing with waste but it is cutting down on the amount of waste produced in Prosperous is the important one. Resource management looks at the area of saving on water energy and transport. Joining the green homes is another helpful tool. Take one small area for next year's competition and work on this.

Tidiness:

There are some areas of untidiness that needs addressing. Encroaching foliage on road signs needs to be cut back. weed growth on kerbs and in car park looks bad. Advertising signs on school railing corner distracts from the school building and looks untidy. Some road signs need cleaning and painting. Gates at gaa needs painting. Nothing too major to address but if done would improve greatly the overall tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The thatch house on the Clane road was admired, it looked superb. Some housing estates were visited Churchview Lawns, had some nice landscaping. Corrochoil Parc and Gorretti Terrace were all visited and admired with nice gardens and green areas. Anne Street estate was also noted. There were some lovely individual houses with hanging baskets and window boxes. The house near the entrance to the parochial house looked splendid with many window boxes. Mature trees in this area added to the streetscape. Well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village had some nice hedging and verges. Work on the grass verges on the Maynooth road of levelling and reseeded was noted. Stone walls being cleaned and maintained was also noted. Ensure that foliage is cut back from road signs. Hedge cutting is not permitted at this time. Gates to the priest's house needs attention and some road surfaces were uneven.

General Impression:

Prosperous have done good work for their second year in the competition. Thank you for participating in the competition. Continue the good work. You are wished continued success.