

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigtwohill** Ref: **363**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **238**
Category: **D** Date(s): **06/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	36	37
The Built Environment	50	30	32
Landscaping	50	29	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	22
Litter Control	50	27	28
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	14	14
Residential Areas	40	28	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	228	238

Overall Development Approach:

Carrigtwohill is welcome to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for well presented application form. The map was helpful and clearly labelled as were your enclosed photographs. Please name all approach roads. You have made huge strides in increasing your committee from 5/6 to almost 30 people. There is an appetite for improving Carrigtwohill for the benefit of all the community. You have strong links with Cork Co Co and Tus. Do you have any support or funding from SECAD? You are engaging locally with schools, businesses and the probation service. You mention the worthwhile Men's Sheds. What about links with other community groups such as sports clubs? Well done for attending social media training and relaunching your facebook page. Is a specific person assigned to keeping it up-to-date? Don't forget to mention your 'Community News' etc under this category. Also mention your web texting and any local websites here. Thank you for submitting your 3-year Tidy Towns Plan (2012 – 2015). When you review this plan, you might consider using the TT category headings so that all areas receive equal focus.

The Built Environment:

The Community Centre is one of the highlights and was a hive of activity. Flowers enhance the neat appearance. Your work on the row of derelict cottages (Church Lane) is commended. They are blending nicely into the streetscape. You are taking on the painting of several derelict buildings with the permission of owners. Are you also engaging with Cork County Council on any of these properties? Kingdom Hall with its stone wall and timber gates, was admired. The playground was neatly presented. The modern Family Resource Centre blends in well with the streetscape and enhances this prominent corner. We admired the school with its big 'We're walking to school today' sign on the gate. The grounds here were pristine. Johnny's garage has had a facelift, enhanced by your dramatic planters.

Landscaping:

It was interesting to see the IDA Park being used by walkers as it is nicely landscaped with good tree planting. Pockets of new planting brighten up the industrial Cork road approach. Several residential areas have used landscaping to further enhance their estates, e.g. Rockland and Castle View. Large planters are used appropriately where you have wide pavements. Planting outside the playground was admired. A lovely hedgerow leads from here to the Park. Please be mindful that under the Wildlife Act, hedge cutting is not permitted between Mar 1 and Aug 31. The area in front of Eastlink is well maintained. One tree (falling over) needs attention. The

colourful window boxes were observed at the cheerfully presented Boys school. Keith's garden looks well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Millennium Park is a wonderful amenity for local and visitors alike to enjoy. Your plans to further develop and promote walking trails are to be welcomed. This will further integrate the park with the main village. The completion of the walk/bike trail from the IDA Park to Killalcoyne Bridge Cross is a great addition to the community. Well done for ongoing monitoring (and new signage) for your wildflower area. Well done to Castle Lake residents for their wildlife project. Keep us updated on progress.

Litter Control:

You have been organising major high profile clean ups and it seems the success of these is leading more people to come on board. You are right to focus on the basis such as litter and tidiness at the outset as these are most visible to the community. There was no litter at the bottle banks; however the receptacles themselves could do with a wash. Litter was disappointing outside Centra (car park side of building). Well done for drawing up a litter plan. Your litter rota is impressive. It's a great idea to rope the parents in while their kids are at GAA training! Well done for segregating materials for recycling. Awareness is an important element of this category so please tell us more about how you are promoting your various anti-litter initiatives. Did you do any awareness campaign around the erection of your dog litter bins?

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

You show a good understanding of this category. Your sustainable way of thinking under the Landscaping category is impressive (lots of reuse of materials, plants etc). You are also promoting reuse in a general way through involvement in car boot sales, promotion of charity shops and reuse of jam jars locally. You are encouraging conservation of water and energy through your 'community news' newsletter. Thank you for the update on the Green Flag situation in Carrigtwohill and well done to all the schools for their fantastic achievements in helping our environment. You are seeking the advice of the Council's EAO and recently held a composting demonstration day. Did many people participate or take up home composting as a result? Thank you for the photo. The lovely fence made from re-used sally rods was greatly admired. We wish you luck with your 'Stop Food Waste' talk. Please update us on this next time. Keep up the good progress in this category.

Tidiness:

There are some issues under this category that could be focussed on. Please do a check on disused poles and lobby for their removal if not in use, e.g. one near the rear entrance to Fota Rock., also at St. Aloysius College. Watch out for temporary advertising signs, particularly on approach roads; try to keep them to a minimum. The bunting at Texaco and at the Castle Bar is looking tired and should be removed. The banner at the latter is in good condition but detracts from the building's attractive character. Keep an eye on flags at the community centre. They should be removed/replaced if they become frayed. At Costcutter's, please wash signs and remove Christmas lights! Disused hanging basket brackets also give an impression of untidiness. Overhead wires detract from your lovely streetscape. In this economic climate, this is probably a longer term project but you could be engaging with the relevant agencies nonetheless. The banners and advertising hoardings at Centra give a cluttered impression. There was one neglected hanging basket not being maintained. Please remove.

Residential Areas:

It is important that each residential area moves towards being responsible and more proactive in its own area. This is certainly starting to happen in Carrigtwohill! Well done for offering them support, resulting in new residents associations being set up. Tell us next year about the number of RA's in the village. Most residential areas were presented to a high standard, including Fota Rock, Cul Ard, Castle View. Other residential streets have been improved by your efforts on derelict houses. You and your residents are showing great enthusiasm in this category and are making a big visible difference. Well done to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Barrycourt Roundabout looks well after your recent landscaping improvements. The crash barrier on the Barrycourt Road (town centre) is in very poor condition. The fence opposite Aldi should be treated soon. The clean up of Kathleen's wall has shown what a feature these lovely stone walls can be in your town. New walls at Ryan & Ahern and Maryville Housing estates are noted. We look forward to seeing the completed Barrycourt approach road next time. Continue to focus on enhancing your approach roads as first impressions are important! Boundaries can be well defined by use of quality signage, appropriate landscaping and well maintained grass verges.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit Carrigtwohill for the first time. Your village has expanded rapidly in recent times but you are embracing the changes in a positive way and working to bring 'old' and 'new' together. Your positive approach and 'can do' attitude is reaping rewards. Well done on a fine presentation and we wish you well in future projects.

