

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Togher** Ref: **1435**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **238**
Category: **H** Date(s): **13/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	50	29	31
Landscaping	50	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	27
Litter Control	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	6	7
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	231	238

Overall Development Approach:

Togher is welcome to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application including many photos. Your many maps were too confusing for this adjudicator as you don't have a key code showing where your current work is. It took a long time to get our bearings. One overall map of Togher would suffice along with one other (not necessarily to scale) showing your current areas of work. Please put key landmarks on your map. Well done on recruiting two new members to your committee, which at 27 members is a good representation. You also have residents and volunteers willing to help as required. You have good links with Cork City and County Councils and engage with local groups such as scouts and local schools. Well done on embracing social media through your facebook page. Has this led to any increased involvement? You also use conventional channels to ensure your messages are getting out. Well done for getting your 3-5 year Tidy Towns plan together. This is a positive move towards focussing on projects and prioritising your resources as required. When you review this plan, I would recommend you use the Tidy Towns category headings and put your specific actions under each. Also try to put timeframes on future actions. This need not be a lengthy document but will make it more useful for you in monitoring progress.

The Built Environment:

The Morning Star school is neatly presented as is Lidl supermarket with attractive landscaping around its perimeter. One of the highlights was the beautifully presented community centre. Considering the photos you submitted, it is a great achievement that this building and surrounds are looking so splendid. Centra looks well and the flowers over the door enhance the presentation. The stone lodge building was admired. The former shop looks okay despite being closed. Grounds and railings at the Boys N.S. are presented to a high standard. The yellow brick building near Centra is not so impressive. Not sure if this is residential or commercial? Attention should be paid to the sign, flag poles, weed control and Christmas lights. The barber's shop looks well. We wish you well with your plans for the open museum.

Landscaping:

The front of the funeral home contains attractive landscaping. Two neglected beds up towards the main road give an untidy impression as does the entrance to Eagle Valley. Pouladuff Road has some attractive tree planting. Efforts have been made to enhance the pump area in front of Centra by using attractive flower planters. The church grounds are nicely landscaped, particularly the gravel

shrubby along by the Stations of the Cross. We wish you well with your new planting plans and TACT gardening project.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done for carrying out surveys to identify river life, trees and plants. Who carried out these surveys? We look forward to seeing the planned interpretative signage along the Tramore river. Have you put the call out locally to see if you have a wildlife expert in your midst? Be mindful of excessive use of weedkiller as it may impact wildlife. Some schools are working on their 'biodiversity' theme as part of their green schools programme. In this case, working in conjunction with the local school would be highly beneficial.

Litter Control:

Well done for erecting dog fouling signs and for organising clean up days in conjunction with local schools and Togher Community Association. You are making great efforts to tackle litter but it is an issue for you. There was minor litter in many areas. The bottle banks at the park were neatly presented despite the containers being a little on the old side and overhead signs being missing. Will these be put in place? Otherwise any disused poles should be removed. There was a little litter at the nearby bin, around the edges of Lidl and in the long grass nearby. The other bottle banks (due to be removed according to sign) were in very order with a lot of unsightly dumping. There was litter along the Togher Road near Sandown Crescent. Litter in the stream on Togher Road should be addressed as it can impact wildlife.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

You are commended for promoting the 'reduce reuse recycle' messages through your newsletters. Have the 'no junk mail' stickers worked? Tell us more about the 'waste to resource conversion techniques'. This sounds very interesting. The TACT bicycle is a wonderful initiative as is the innovative Summer Events night – well done to those involved. Your promotion of recycling best practice is noted. Keep up strong contact with the schools with regard to progress in this category. There are many overlaps between Tidy Towns and Green Schools and you can each help each other. You could also mention any water or energy saving measures, e.g. for watering plants/flowers during summer season. Does the school run any walk/cycle to school promotions? This cuts down on your carbon footprint and your traffic! You could encourage a residential estate to sign up to www.greenhome.ie as a pilot project.

Tidiness:

Opposite the Sarsfield Rd bottle banks, the grass verges are long. However further back from the road, residential green areas were well maintained. Please pay attention to cleaning of some signs, e.g. Roundabout opposite the church, l'Arche sign at main road, Pedestrian crossing sign, Children at Play sign (Westside Estate). Try to minimise fly posting and advertising hoardings. Your efforts in this regard are noted. Ensure that posters taken down as soon as the event is over. The Entry/No Entry signs at the church should be straightened and cleaned. The bus stop should also be straightened. There was a burnt out van opposite the Lodge. The clutter in the back yard of the Sports Pavilion is visible from the bridge. Maybe further tree planting could be used to screen this. We didn't notice any major graffiti issues – your efforts to tackle this in conjunction with Probation Services are impressive.

Residential Areas:

Well done to all residential areas for taking a proactive approach to tackling litter. Litter control in residential areas was quite good. Deanwood Ave is neatly presented. The Deanrock name stone is becoming very faded. Riverview Estate contains neatly presented houses with good weed control along kerbsides. The flower tubs along the green area didn't appear to be planted and there was heavy littering at the 'shortcut' railings leading to another estate. Summerstown Grove has some lovely mature trees and was well presented apart from long grass in open areas. Fernwood looks well with trees maturing and flowers at the entrance. The sign needs attention. Fernwood has attractive green areas at its entrance. The Robinscourt sign is faded. Well done to residents associations for taking on grass maintenance and making additional effort to present individual properties to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is difficult to know when one has arrived in Togher as there are no defined boundaries. This is something you could work on for the purpose of the Tidy Towns competition. This would also help you in promoting pride of place among the community and distinguishing Togher from your neighbours. Your plans in relation to name stones are noted. Please mark your Tidy Towns boundaries more clearly on the map so the adjudicator isn't wandering around aimlessly or outside your boundaries. You have impressive parks, walks and green areas. Is there potential for Sli na Slainte walks or similar? E.g. put a sign at the entrance to the Sports Pavilion indicating where the walking trail goes. This would further integrate the community and increase the feeling of connectivity. The railings at the sports pavilion would benefit from being painted. The grass areas inside the railings are well maintained.

General Impression:

Sorry to hear about your major flooding event in June 2012; however it is heartening to hear that this unfortunate

event brought the community closer together for the betterment of Togher. You have a large area and many challenges including litter. You are taking the right approach in terms of getting residential areas, businesses etc on board as it is impossible for your committee to cover an area of your size. Thank you Togher – keep up the enthusiasm and good work.