

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knocklong**

Ref: **461**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **270**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **15/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Litter Control	50	36	36
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	8	9
Tidiness	30	15	17
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38	38
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	265	270

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for a very positive and interesting entry which came with an excellent map. Will you be getting a new Tidy Towns Plan? In the meantime work through the recommended actions that you haven't completed just yet. Your committee has good numbers and the 'all out' ethos of clean-ups is admired. You include the national school in your plans and that's great. Try to include some photographs in your entry as suggested by last year's adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

Well done on cleaning up the old creamery yard. Did you get around to making up the derelict building inventory as suggested last year? Its very good that you got some expert advice from the planning officer on the listed buildings. It is acknowledged that it is difficult when you can't take all of the actions you might wish but do keep conservation in mind.

Possibly the oldest building still standing is the castle and this was viewed from the Slí na Sláinte route as you suggested. The views here are lovely. The pub looked very neat and the church is extremely well kept. The national school looked relatively dull and could be brightened up with colours from planting or murals. Does the school have a Green Flag yet? The community hall looks great, well done. There is lovely planting on the stone wall at the front of the building. Why not plant some trees here?

The derelict cottage on the Mitchelstown approach could be painted up. The Post Office is very neat. Hughes' Pub and prms across the road are empty - a shame. The stone house appears to 'have the lights on' yet as there is a hair salon here. The Topaz service station is neat and tidy. The Credit Union looks well but keep notices in the doors and windows in order.

Landscaping:

You've been busy on several actions in this category. Well done. Could the Tidy Towns carry out some interim grass-cutting at the Terraces? The shrub and flower planting at Knocklong View was noted and there are very nice shrubs at the railway bridge. The planters at the Credit Union are a plus.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on informing yourselves further on wildlife. The new sign was noted. However, you should get some expert advice on habitat creation for this area. Your planting of all those thorn bushes is a great start. Tree-planting is also a great initiative. Why not get the national school in on this? The school could host a wild area and the lanes here would be excellent for nature walks.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on a successful Spring Clean. Well done also for your maintenance of the bring bank. You have good voluntary commitment on litter control and this is reflected on the ground. For (at least) two years in a row, no litter was seen on adjudication day. Congratulations.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The 'beat the recession' and autumn fair are good examples of initiatives adjudicated under this category. Litter recycling is valid too but what is sought here are ways to prevent waste becoming waste at all. Look up the long list of examples of suitable projects and initiatives that the Tidy Towns Unit have sent out or get it online. You'll find that you're probably doing some of these already but look at the list of projects and initiatives and see where you 'tick boxes' and what you can do next.

Tidiness:

You've been busy! You probably won't even need the Slí na Sláinte, you'll be so fit from all the tidying. Well done on getting this route checked out. It's a great resource for you all. The bottle banks were in good condition on adjudication day. The adjudicator loved the handmade black and white directional signage. The finger sign for the church is in need of a clean. The main finger-posts at the Topaz should all have the finger signs moved up higher.

Residential Areas:

Well done on the creation and placing of name signs and name stones. This is more important than you might think and helps to create and maintain pride in a community. The GAA boundary wall was a big task. Was this done voluntarily?

The terrace opposite the empty shop was admired. Is this railway terrace? The social housing homes on the Golden Mile look really good. The 'Dutch barn' style of roof is echoed here. The terrace of stone houses adjacent the creamery are really nice.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You've create and maintain a number of good quality stone planters which really do make a difference. What are water stations, the hydrant markers?

There is a very nice approach road from Hospital which doesn't look too manicured. Go easy on the strimming on your walking routes. Nowhere does it say that Slíthe na Sláinte have to be so neat. In fact, for the Golden Mile, you want to have plenty of diversity. The grotto was very neat and the graveyard extremely so. The approach road from the Mitchelstown side is just right, not too much strimming and a little planting at the name signs. The heritage information panel is excellent. The approach road on the Tipperary Road is perfectly managed. The road surfaces are generally good here.

General Impression:

The adjudicator was very impressed with the attention to detail shown in your entry and in your work. Knocklong has many built and natural features that set it apart and you are working hard to protect and maintain them.