

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Barefield** Ref: **1766**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **243**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	21
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>243</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ta Fáilte Romhat Gort Lomán - Welcome Barefield to the Super Valu 2014 National Tidy Towns competition. Although you say that 14 people is a small workforce, it is a very good sized committee for a small village. But perhaps you mean that only 14 people help you with your work - as you also say that 14 is a very small workforce. 14 is a large committee nonetheless. You meet monthly. Clare County Council and FBD Plumbing Supplies in Shannon support you. Perhaps you can find some help from other agencies, bodies or local businesses into the future.

You use newsletters and the newspaper to communicate. Have you considered texting, e-mailing or perhaps a Facebook page? These are instant, sustainable and youth-friendly methods. You meet with the Green School committee annually. You say that entering the competition helps you to get jobs done and people are happy to visit Barefield.

Your map was adequate. We would encourage you to submit a Tidy Towns plan – a three or five-year plan will focus your mind on what you can hope to achieve. A plan need not be prepared professionally, but you should consult locally in preparing such a plan. You should also consider any statutory and non-statutory plans applicable to Barefield in drawing up your work programme. Please refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for advice in relation to the preparation of a three or five-year plan. It is essential to progress in the competition and to gain extra marks under this particular category that you submit such a plan in 2015.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

You hope to create a public park on a donated site opposite the church. You have included this under built environment as you propose to create a new Park. However it is also a landscaping project as it applies to planning and open space.

The church looked very well, and it is a noticeable feature along this roadway. Its architectural integrity and simple landscaping are excellent. The village pump was painted - and brightened up by its yellow bucket.

We admired a nice gate beside the village pump. With regard to gates - we would suggest that you consider painting all field gates within the village boundaries in a uniform colour. This gives identity to the village area and creates a tidy cared-for effect.

The school was well presented. However the low wall below the prefabs along the cul-de-sac adjacent requires paint.

Considines and Hassetts were presented in a clean fashion. Some disused brackets and a sign holder on the front elevation of Hassetts might be removed. We admired the small Irish sign 'Ta telefón ar fáil' on Considines.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

We look forward to the development of the site which you have been working on - in getting ready to open it as a public park.

We admired the additional beech hedging which you planted this year. You enhanced the pump area with flowers, and you plant native trees as well as floral containers. There is a nice grove of deciduous trees planted all around the southern roundabout. Here too we admired the floral display. We consider that hanging baskets look somewhat out of character in such a location, and we would suggest that you continue to plant in the soil instead. This is more sustainable environmentally and more appropriate to a rural area. Splashes of colour from floral planting outside the church looked well. Outside the Clare Crusaders Clinic there were some lovely bright flowers planted, but too many signs at this location detracted from the overall effect. The lupins in the planter looked well. At the Ruan junction with greatly admired the lovely shrub bed with a good stone wall backing.

There is a good sweep of roadway down to the school with well trimmed grass on the left-hand side and weed free footpaths, together with trees on the right-hand side, backed in each case by stone walls.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

You acknowledge the fact that you do not have projects undertaken for this year under this category heading. When you start to think about your Tidy Towns plan, you can concentrate your mind on feasible ideas to enhance the understanding and awareness of the natural amenities in your area, as well as managing and providing access to such areas. In particular do provide for this aspect of your new park. We suggest that you consult the Heritage Office and the Biodiversity Officer of your local authority in relation as to how to move forward with plans along these lines. You should also read the Tidy Towns Handbook which is quite detailed on this category. The Heritage Council's 'Wildlife in Towns and Villages' booklet is also a useful resource. Engaging with the schools on even elementary nature study surveys can lead in time to the further analysis and interpretation/presentation of the findings. You live in an area with much wildlife. You have the potential to enjoy it and learn more about it as well as increasing your marks in this category very readily. We understand that Clare County Council has launched a biodiversity plan for the county. We suggest that you look into this plan and see how you can be part of the overall future of Clare's bio diversity.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well done to your local refuse collector who provides a weekly free service to your group. You also use the County landfill site. You recycle in the Ennis recycling centre. You have plans to create a compost heap. A clothing bank at the school was noted. We also noted the solar powered school signs.

Remember that sustainable waste and resource management begins with endeavouring to reduce the production of waste in the first case. We would recommend that you consider attending or organising a Sustainable Waste and Resource Management seminar. Perhaps your County Environmental Awareness Officer might be able to suggest where you might attend such an event. You could increase your marks in this category as a community by taking on board some of the suggested projects in the leaflet distributed with the Entry Form in 2013. The Tidy Towns Handbook is also a good source of information in this regard. We hope that in 2015 we will hear about your efforts to progress further in this area.

The school has a Green Flag. The pupils therefore can be a rich source of inspiration to the community. Hopefully you can increase your number of meetings with them to more than an annual meeting.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

We are glad to say that your election candidates have removed the stays as well as posters in Barefield. You had been worried about this.

We noticed some fly posting at the foot of the Barefield/Limerick/Galway sign on the southern roundabout. There was other occasional fly posting in the village. A rusty upright on a sign just south of the church was noted.

Two projecting brackets which were disused were attached to the Clare Crusaders premises. We noted a faded school sign. We also noted some sign poles with nothing attached. The Green Flag at the school was frayed. The corner area opposite the school needs tidying up.

The curtilage of the Crusaders building requires screening, especially along the side road elevation. The surfaced area outside the kerbing to the village pump surrounds could be improved.

Your weekly litter patrols appears to be adequate for your needs, as litter did not appear to be a major problem in your village on adjudication day - where we just saw a few pieces of litter. On the cul-de-sac beside the school we noticed a few pieces of litter.

You might take a look at the Clare County Litter Plan and see where you can 'dovetail' a Litter Management Plan for

your village into its broader policies.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The standard of residential properties in the village is good. You do not have any housing estates. You help residents with their garden maintenance and boundary wall painting. This is a generous gesture, and we wonder how often it is availed of.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

You maintain the two roundabouts to endeavour to create a good first impression of Barefield. You also have planted flowers on the roundabouts to encourage people into the village. On approach roads you have cleared stone walls of ivy. New kerbing has been provided, and weeding takes place along kerb edges. We can attest to your attention to weeding - as on adjudication day we noticed a man weeding with a hoe - manually and non-chemically at the bus stop area near the southern roundabout. Well done! From the southern roundabout there is a nice sweep into the village. The Barefield village sign is simple and classical with good red floral enhancement. There is nice green edging and there are new trees planted between the roundabout and the church. We would strongly suggest that you replace the container planting along the connector road between Hassettss and the roundabout with planting in the soil for reasons already outlined. Beyond the Barefield roundabout we noticed a headless pole, and we also noticed a need to trim the grass which was encroaching on tree growth.

The Ruan approach road has some rough road surfaces and setbacks, but also some well landscaped gardens and green areas. This is a largely suburban road which is neat. There did not appear to be any name sign for the village here. A 50 KPH sign was turned in the wrong direction as one approaches on the right hand side.

The Galway approach (old road) is green and leafy. There is a need to tidy up the village name sign on the Galway approach, as this area is weedy and overgrown. We observed a battered high road sign on the left hand side on this approach. A school sign on this approach was faded and obscured by vegetation on adjudication day.