

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delvin** Ref: **1113**  
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **180**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	27
The Built Environment	50	0	25
Landscaping	50	0	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	13
Litter Control	50	0	25
Waste Minimisation	20	0	0
Tidiness	30	0	12
Residential Areas	40	0	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	25
General Impression	10	0	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>180</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Delvin is very welcome to the 2011 National TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form along with your hand drawn map. For future applications use the map to list out particular areas which you would like the adjudicator to visit. Delvin is a small village with a large number of people involved in your committee. Well done! Your newly formed 15 member committee have been busy and we hope to see the fruits of their enthusiasm in future years. You should focus attention on developing a town plan to help you approach your work in a structured manner and allow you target agencies to get support and advice from such as Fas, Westmeath County Council, the Tree Council of Ireland and many others. Try to develop projects in each category of the competition in order to gain marks and really advance. You have a lovely town with some outstanding historic buildings and an enthusiastic community, so we see no reason why you can't do well in the TidyTowns competition. Good luck.

### The Built Environment:

As a village dissected by a busy road you present a very neat and tidy front for the visitor. You have an abundance of historic sites and building of interest and as a first time visitor I very much enjoyed my time there. You say that you are awaiting permission from the Local Authority to bring works to the graveyard and derelict buildings. We would encourage you to contact the Councils Heritage office to see how you can benefit from the objectives and actions outlined in the current county Heritage Plan 2010-2015. Many of these would apply to your village from the provision of signage to heritage sites to the organisation of seminars on the care and conservation of graveyards for community groups. The shops and business in the town generally present a pleasant frontage with the Headquarters, hairdressers and Lenihans Butchers admired. The Youthreach complex is a pleasant new addition to the streetscape but ensure the planters here are kept maintained. The old school is now the post office, how good to see the reuse of old buildings. However the frontage was spoiled somewhat by the wheelie bins stored here. Can they be moved to an

off-street location? In common with many town and villages you have a problem with empty shops and houses. Try to ensure window boards are kept painted and facades are kept weed free. Good luck with your plans to address this issue.

### **Landscaping:**

There was lots of seasonal planting in your village including the hanging baskets along the main street and on individual premises such as the Blue Hackle pub. The climbers to the gable wall of Tierneys were also admired. You could perhaps plan to plant some trees to create an enhanced landscape setting for the village and on its approaches. This long term structure planting may take a while to have an impact but you will be thanked by future generations for investing in native trees. Make sure you have a maintenance programme in place to look after any trees recently planted. The trees in beds at the youthreach looked under stress and may need to be regularly watered for the first few years until they establish. Replace any that fail. The timber planter to the post office was lovely so well done to the Beavers for that!

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have yet to formulate plans for this category and we would encourage you to look at the habitats present in and around the village as a first step. This kind of simple habitat survey allows you recognise the habitats present and also develop new ones. The village can be divided into several areas or habitat types including gardens, graveyard, open spaces, trees or hedgerows. Each of these areas can then be set a strategy for best management to preserve or increase biodiversity. In many cases this may be a do nothing scenario but in others you can increase biodiversity by changing management practices or doing additional planting. This is another area where some forward planning can begin to gain you marks.

### **Litter Control:**

Good luck in formulation a strategy for regular litter picks. The bin at Delvin Castle was full so this may need to be part of your regular route. Recent litter was also noted outside Tierneys shop. This would seem to be a good location for a bin. Some of the pubs and takeaways had litter on the paths outside their premises. Try to encourage local business to regularly sweep outside their frontages especially after busy weekends.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You have included no detail in this section of the submission so we wonder if you have any plans to progress this category for future years. The schools are a great place to start as many of the pupils learn sustainable lessons as part of their school work. Are your schools taking part in the Green schools scheme? This programme is a great way to encourage the children to think about waste and green issues and of course they then bring ideas home with them and it can spread new waste minimisations practices through the community. Other simple ways to advance in this category is to encourage your community's participation in for example earth day or cycle week, nationally promoted programmes that you could take part in. Has there been a BER rating done on the youthreach complex? This can inform you as to how you can improve the performance of your community buildings while hopefully cutting running costs. These can be simple and effective ways to get the message across and will gain you points in this category.

### **Tidiness:**

Tidiness is not about the absence of litter but rather the overall presentation of area. There are a number of temporary signs around the village that should be removed especially as they begin to deteriorate. The old developers/marketing sign at Castle View is a particularly unsightly element at the entrance to the village. Light poles in the main street are also in need of attention and should be replaced or repainted. Contact the local roads engineer for advice on progressing this. Keep gravel and unpaved footpaths and kerb edges sprayed to prevent weeds taking hold. The window boxes with dead plants at the Caman Inn should be removed if they are not to be planted this season. Always remove last season's summer planting before the winter sets in or replace with winter bedding or evergreens.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of presentation of both individual houses and estates in the village is high with an obvious commitment to keep the communal open spaces and garden areas neat and tidy. Well done all the residents. The green at Lacora Glen has lovely views to Delvin Castle. Trees were maturing nicely here but ensure tree ties are removed once the tree is established, generally after 2-3 years. The open spaces at Castle view had some dead trees which should be removed and replanted as part of your future landscape works. A hedge can be established to the back of the boundary wall here to screen the block work. There were some fine front gardens on the road approaching the church.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The verges on the approaches were cut and road surfaces good with a nice paved area at the Ulster bank. Ensure all road signs are kept clean especially where they are beneath braches.

**General Impression:**

We hope that the involvement in the competition will be a great motivator for the whole community. Well done to all involved in this years submission and we wish you continued good luck in the competition.