

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherbue** Ref: **95**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	50	32	33
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Litter Control	50	35	35
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Residential Areas	40	28	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	248	251

Overall Development Approach:

Boherbue is welcome to the SuperValu 2012 National TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry, which included a helpful sketch map and photos. Your strong committee of 20 members has four formal meetings a year and weekly work outings. In order to further progress in the competition, you might consider meeting a bit more often so that you can review previous work, set out your work programme and basically keep the momentum going year-round.

You have good links with Cork County Council and IRD Duhallow as well as local contact with both local schools. Do you have a FAS or rural social scheme? Are there any other clubs/groups in the village that you engage with?

Well done on your ongoing communication through local newsletter and direct contact. How often is the newsletter published? Is there a community website or noticeboard?

You might start thinking about submitting a 3-year plan for next year, which is required in order to progress in this category. It will help your committee to focus on priority areas moving forward. Visit the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie for helpful information in preparing a plan and other TidyTowns activities. It is recommended to use the competition categories so that you don't miss out on any areas, also to designate actions to groups/individuals and include timeframes.

The Built Environment:

Thank you for the 'before' and 'after' photos of Halla an Phiarsaigh, where a fine refurbishment job has been done. The graveyard at the entrance to the village is well maintained with some excellent landscaping that enhances this approach road. The 'Food Ingredients' is brightly painted in contrast to the forlorn looking 'for sale' building next door. Is it possible to paint the railings here as a short-term measure until a new owner takes over? The SuperValu shop and car park was well presented as were Murphy's Pharmacy, Chapel View take away and Murphy's pub. The charming thatched 'Linehan's Insurance' was admired but would be much

improved if painted. The church looks well but would be improved if the lampposts and handrails were painted. The small Retail Park is neatly presented, as is the school. The landscaping at the Educocare centre was admired. The playground was neatly presented and would be further improved if the entrance railings from the road were painted. Your plans to highlight places of historical interest are welcomed.

Landscaping:

Some colourful landscaping is dotted around the village e.g. at Knocknagree Road which has well-maintained verges and attractive shrubs. A colourful flowerbed enhances the entrance to the handball alley and that of the rather concrete school landscape nearby. You have also used some colourful planting to highlight your village centre and planting at the village pump was also admired. There is good landscaping, verges and seating on the Kanturk Road. Do try and plant for year-round colour and interest. This will also benefit the local wildlife and biodiversity and give you less maintenance. Road surfacing should be under 'Roads, streets and back areas' category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You don't submit any initiatives under this category. The wildlife information panel on the Knocknagree Rd was observed.

The main aim of this category is to protect/enhance the wildlife we have and raise awareness of it among the wider community. You mention that there is a 'Slí na Sláinte' walking route. Is this well used and would it be suitable for any wildlife project? Even something simple like siting of bird boxes for a start? Do you have any local wildlife enthusiast who could help you to further progress in this category and maybe carry out a survey of what you have locally? Have any wildlife surveys been completed in recent times? Keeping wildlife in mind when choosing new plants/trees, using weedkiller sparingly etc would be encouraged under this category. Certain plants attract butterflies etc. Try to plant native species where possible.

Litter Control:

Some litter was observed between the graveyard and main village. Apart from that, Boherbue village itself was generally free of litter on the day we visited so well done to all involved. Well done to all the 'Litter Champions' for your weekly clean ups. Does the wider community give support and look after their own areas? You note that the recycling banks are a problem, however they were in good order on the day we visited.

Awareness raising is an important part of this category so please remember to let us know about how you communicate your anti-litter messages to the wider community? Do you take part in the Cork County Council's anti-litter challenge or any other such schemes?

Tidiness:

The roadside verges opposite the graveyard detract from the great work that has been done across the road. Please try to encourage all residences to take responsibility for roadside verges/boundaries. The secondary school has some nice landscaping but the fence needs attention. Grass needs cutting at Boherbue Park, which otherwise looked well. Please take care to wash signs and remove any hanging basket wall brackets if not being used. The orange wall at the village centre (junction) needs painting.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done for segregating your clean-up litter for recycling. The main aim of this category is about more than just recycling. It's about reducing the amount of waste created in the first place. Are there any local reuse schemes (schoolbooks, clothes etc) that you could mention? Are many people home composting or trying to cut down on food waste, which is a huge problem. I'm sure there is a lot going on in the community to Reduce and Reuse. Have any of the businesses come up with innovative ways to reuse packaging or make it less wasteful? The school should be implementing lots of actions to reduce and reuse if they are working towards their Green Flag (please give their status next time). One of their steps is to 'inform and involve' the local community so there should be community awareness raising going on. The county council is often looking for interested groups to host waste minimisation events so it would be worth contacting the environmental awareness section. We look forward to hearing of further initiatives next year – please be a bit more specific.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas were generally presented to a high standard though name signage does need to be improved as you state in your application.

Like many other centres, you have an unfinished housing estate that detracts from the overall appearance. Can anything be done to better screen off the site in the short to medium term? The houses opposite were very well maintained. Further out the road, the flowerbeds on the green in front of the terrace of houses needs weeding. Another new estate has been finished and well landscaped –it is still waiting for a name! The charming thatched cottage on the Kanturk Rd was admired, as was the stone house opposite the Retail Park. Regarding the unoccupied houses on the Main St, it would be great if you can get permission and volunteers to keep them painted and weeded to a presentable standard. Do all estates have residents committees? If

not, can you assist them in setting them up so that they can feed into your core committee? It is important that estate takes on responsibility for their own areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have some fine hedgerows and mature trees on your approach roads, e.g. on the Kanturk and Mallow Roads. Your comments regarding road surfacing are noted.

General Impression:

Well done to all in Boherbue for your relentless energy in improving your village year on year. Your clear plan is helping you to focus on your priorities. Like every other village, there are challenges in terms of unfinished/derelict developments and cutbacks in resources. However you are staying positive and working with all the appropriate stakeholders for the future benefit of Boherbue. Thank you for a fine presentation and we wish you well in future projects.