

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bennettsbridge** Ref: **997**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **245**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	37
The Built Environment	50	0	32
Landscaping	50	0	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	17
Litter Control	50	0	33
Tidiness	30	0	17
Waste Minimisation	20	0	5
Residential Areas	40	0	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	33
General Impression	10	0	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>245</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Bennettsbridge Tidy Towns to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry is very much appreciated and we welcome your return to the competition after an absence of 13 years.

There is unused space in the entry form. Please tell us about everything that might increase your score. Feel free to add pages, photos, etc. Do not feel that you have to be constrained by the form. About the map, it should show the locations of all of the work done for this year's competition and the map you used might be too small for that. Please use a hand drawn map as large as 2 pages taped together. Make sure that you get everything in. It allows the adjudicator to plan an itinerary to see everything that you did.

It is noted that you have 9 committee members that attend regularly. No doubt your numbers will increase as you are seen at work around the village.

Your meetings seem frequent enough.

FAS could be added to the list of those that support you. Many Tidy Towns groups have the use of FAS sponsored workers to help them. Also LEADER may be able to help.

You have good communication sources, including Facebook. Please enclose copies of any mention in the local paper of your Tidy Towns activities. They can be taken into account when marks are being decided and will be returned to you after the competition.

Your support from the local school is good.

Please consult the Tidy Towns handbook as you will find advice and tips in it on each of the competition's

categories. Among the recommendations that you will discover is one that each Tidy Towns group should prepare a 3 year plan to assist them in planning and prioritising projects.

### **The Built Environment:**

Because of your size Bennettsbridge does not have the range of public buildings that bigger villages and towns have e. g. Library, Fire Station, etc. so it is not easy for you to score marks in this category.

Your work on the old wall at the Credit Union was seen. The building itself makes an impact. Nicely painted. Large stone planters with a tree and plants. Well maintained grassed area in front of wall with row of trees.

The Garda Station is an interesting building with its two castellated towers, one at each end.. A notice says that it is manned for just 1 hour daily. The building needs to be freshened up, as do its surrounds, but it is unlikely that any money will be spent on it. In your entry form you mention that Bennettsbridge Tidy Towns may do it. A narrow flower bed extends along the top of a boundary wall and it has been freshly planted with flowers. Well done to whoever did this.

Eye catching sculpture - 3 silver milk churns on a white stone base, erected to commemorate the local creamery which closed in 1982.

Commercial and residential properties on Main Street look well and include some that really stand out e.g. Post Office, O'Donnell's pub with its old front and hand painted sign, cottage occupied by firm of architects, The Corner House near the bridge, among others.

Information board featuring "Made in Kilkenny Craft Trail" is located beside Moth to a Flame candle maker. Old fuel pumps are cleverly disguised. Well done! Map of the Nore Valley Way on the gable end of Tynan's, at the bridge. Building is well painted, looking clean and fresh in a key location in the village. Your adjudicator was unable to walk a stretch of it because it was waterlogged due to heavy rain. Nearby the village pump stands on a white stone base with a white stone trough in front of it.

The church is a modern design and is well presented. Grounds neat and tidy. Grass being cut on adjudication day. Large stone pots of flowers at the gate add a splash of summer colour. Sharing its grounds is the original National School. It is well painted. Mature trees/shrubs. Across the road is the current National School. Neat, tidy, well kept. Lots of young trees. Beside it is a large well kept field, presumably the sports field. The car park in front of the school is located so that it also serves the church and adjoining graveyard. Clean, no litter. Nice stone wall fronts the car park. Mature trees set in alcoves in the wall. The grotto is eye catching and in a key location. Statues clean. Lots of vegetation and flowers, particularly roses. The graveyard is clean and tidy.

Near the corner on Ballyreddin road The Learning Garden stands out. A creche/Montessori it is well presented, both walls and buildings nicely painted. Garden well planted. Particularly attractive are unusual flower containers made by making cavities in tree trunks and filling the cavities with lots of colourful flowers.

Health Centre: needs to be painted. So does the adjoining building with door - no windows. The well filled flower containers add lots of colour but the effect is reduced because of the dirty look of the containers, They need to be cleaned.

GAA club looks well. Entrance clean, tidy.

### **Landscaping:**

Your adjudicator visited your tree/shrub planting. Your efforts are commended.

At the junction of Kilkenny road/road to Mosses there is a well maintained grassed area with a Visitor Information board and flower bed.

The Ring - trees planted.

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

Young trees planted on river walk to encourage wildlife seen.

Organising 2 nature trails for children with the scout group is a good initiative.

You should consider having a survey done on local wildlife/habitats. The local authority will have a wildlife/heritage officer who will advise you further. Often the school will help, particularly if it is in the Green

schools programme.

Your adjudicator saw 2 swans with their cygnets on the river.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter pick ups on the river walk noted.

The chewing gum poster campaign with the school and parents was a good initiative.

The community clean ups with the help of pupils, scouts and GAA is having an effect because there was very little litter evident in Bennettsbridge on adjudication day. Well done to all involved.

### **Tidiness:**

On the approach from Thomastown the clean black and white village name sign spells the name with one 't'. Put this on the list for the local authority.

Also, there is a surplus metal pole which should be removed.

Junction of Kilkenny road/Mosses road: direction signs on left hand side going towards bridge need cleaning.

Weed control noted.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bottle/clothes bank was clean, neat and tidy. No litter.

Noted that litter is segregated during clean ups.

Please consult the Tidy Towns handbook for more information on what is expected in this category. There is more to what is required than segregating litter. A Tidy Towns group is expected to be proactive in promoting best practice to the community. Consult the handbook for advice and tips. An objective is to cut down on bringing material, including food, into the village that ends up as waste. e.g. buy veg and fruit loose instead of on a tray wrapped in cling film

### **Residential Areas:**

You don't give a location for the boundary planting for the new playground or where the permanent pots were planted. You may not gain marks for this work if the adjudicator cannot locate it.

Your adjudicator visited the following:

Kilree Park: landscaped areas at both sides of the entrance. Good variety of trees/shrubs. Plenty of colour. Well maintained. Mature neighbourhood. Houses well presented. At the end of the cul de sac there is a small amenity area beside a river. Seats and well maintained grass. Seats need to be painted and growth behind them cut back. As a keen swimmer your adjudicator was pleased to see that the life buoys were not vandalised.

Hillview: mature neighbourhood. Some litter. Broken litter bin at entrance.

Marian Place/The Ring: mature neighbourhood of bungalows. Large central grassed area. Seat needs painting.

Norewood Heights: name stone at entrance. Residences well presented. Many with attractive, well planted gardens giving lots of summer colour. Keep an eye on weed control in kerbs.

Woodlawn: entrance on Ballyreddin road has large grassed island with name stone and mature trees. Seat. Well maintained. Farther in was another grassed area with more trees - young and mature. Rear entrances to old national school and church. Well maintained grassed areas with a path flanked with trees. Looks very well. Mature neighbourhood with mixed housing - 2 storey semi-d and bungalows. Many have well planted, colourful gardens.

Small complex of homes for the elderly off the school car park looks very peaceful. Well tended grass and young trees. Lots of flower containers of all types add plenty of summer colour.

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

Your enhancing of approaches was noted by your adjudicator. A lot of hard work. Well done to all involved.

Approach from Thomastown: village name sign in a nicely grassed area with lots of trees and a clean, nicely painted low post and rail fence. Good first impression of Bennettsbridge. Approach continues with neat grassed margin. Narrower margin on right hand side but with raised flower bed. Fence continues for quite a distance, finally reaching a junction where there are 2 grassed areas with trees, commemorative stone on one end and a name stone at the other. Also a seat. Left side has neat verge with several colourful flower beds.

Kilkenny approach: just past the motorway bridge is a trimmed verge with wooden bollards. It is a long stretch of road with some young trees planted. Good first approach.

Bridge: clean, white bollards. White stones at base of walls of bridge.

Gowran road approach: clean village name sign.

L8200 junction with Kilkenny/Thomastown road: direction signs and village name sign clean. Good first impression.

Ballyreddin road approach: well tended grass margin with row of trees. Good first impression.

### **General Impression:**

Well done Bennettstown Tidy Towns group. You tell us that you are part of Bennettstown Community Development. Your village has a lot of character and is set in very lush countryside. It deserves to be presented as a part of that landscape. Your re-entry into the Tidy Towns involved a lot of hard work which your adjudicator commends you for. Not alone the Tidy Towns group but the many volunteers without whom you could not have achieved as much as you have. Well done to all involved.

We welcome you back into the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Changes have taken place to the competition while you were away. More weight has been given to some categories than others. Bennettsbridge escaped the blight of unfinished housing estates and the increasing dereliction resulting from abandoned buildings. To help you catch up your marks this year are generous. Please consider them to be your reward for a lot of hard work in getting Bennettsbridge back into shape and as an incentive to continue in the Tidy Towns competition. Next year the adjudicator will apply normal standards to the marking process.

We look forward to receiving your entry into the 2013 Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you Bennettsbridge Tidy Towns.