

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullahought** Ref: **404**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **301**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/06/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	50	41	41
Landscaping	50	43	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Litter Control	50	42	42
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	13	14
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	37
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>301</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Tullahought to the 2013 National TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your detailed submission and annotated hand drawn map which was very useful on adjudication day. The structured approach to your works and the eagerness to learn from fellow TidyTowns groups is to be commended and the continued dedication of your committee of 10 active members is appreciated, a great number for a small community. The level of voluntary commitment is excellent and shows the amount of hard work and dedication needed to advance in the competition. Indeed on adjudication day a work party was in full swing by the roadside on Mill Road. Your continued good relations with the local school and your support of their work is also to your credit and we hope to see a Green Flag flying in the grounds soon. Good luck with your many annual events; these are a great way to reinforce your message within the community and can be used as a useful fundraising opportunity. We are glad that the awarding of your first bronze medal has been greeted with such joy in the community and we wish you all of the best in striving towards a silver medal.

### The Built Environment:

You have a charming village set amongst a lovely rural backdrop. The church and community building are such key features for you and both were presented to a high standard with the stand alone belfry a lovely element, the gates here were recently painted. The use of stone walls in the village is a uniting theme and the tall walls to the car park were nicely detailed. E Powers public house has a lovely traditional frontage and the brass lights were gleaming. We felt the muted colours used here and the dark tone of the church railings really suit your village setting. While the red field gates are eye-catching, a muted shade of green or grey may give a neater and more ordered impression to the visitor. Consider introducing a Tullahought green or grey which can in time be rolled out across gates, bins and window boards at the mill area etc. Have you considered installing cycle racks in the car park in addition to the car parking spaces for both residents and touring visitors?

### Landscaping:

The standard of landscaping throughout the village was once again very high and well done to all involved in the considerable work that has gone into this level of finish and maintaining your high standards. Your commitment to improve the landscape structure of the village by the planting of new trees is to be commended. However ensure all new trees are maintained and watered especially during the first few years of establishment. While your mountain ash planted to the graveyard may have failed, it is better to replace with native trees rather than

non-native hornbeam. The last of the primroses were just visible at the bed opposite Crokes Well. The red begonia to the base of the loop walk sign looked a little out of place in such a rural area. The adjudicator wondered if a more natural approach to planting should be the theme here. The bright bedding plants in the raised stone beds at the car park were very appropriate, but perhaps this lively planting colour palette should be kept to within the core village area or perhaps at the village entrances signs. By the wildlife areas concentrate on natives and perennials with more muted tones. The viewing tower gives the visitor a real appreciation of the villages setting within the rural landscape; in fact it was a perfect picnic spot for the adjudicator. Could some edible plants be added to the raised beds here, beside the picnic table? Try some native rocket, chives or strawberries which the hungry visitor could pick and include in their picnic lunch.

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

This adjudicator enjoyed a walk around the watering place and loved the old cd signs used to indicate kertmits cottage. The use of bee friendly plants established for the bed at the new sign on the Kilmoganny Road will be appreciated by the local bee population. Have you considered devising a list of bee friendly garden plants in order to encourage residents to plant native species and put emphasis on nectar rich flowers which have maximum benefit for our insects? We are glad to hear that you have a programme of annual maintenance of the bird boxes and looked hard for your buzzards but they were shy on the day of the visit. The viewing tower gives the visitor a real appreciation of the villages' setting within the rural landscape. The expanses of stone walls around the village are important habits for you and support native lichens, mosses, ferns, insects and bats. When doing works to the walls, try not to spray with herbicides and avoid using concrete to repoint. Seek expert advice on the management of ivy and where new walls are being constructed, put on native honeysuckle to avoid bare walls and increase the value for habitats.

#### **Litter Control:**

As a small community litter does not seem to be an issue for you and the village was very tidy on adjudication day. Bins at the viewing area and the pond were clean and emptied. Have you considered setting up a junior litter patrol in partnership with the school? The Bring Centre was well maintained and we note your strategy of monitoring problem areas to deter fly tipping.

#### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

This is category in which you have spearheaded many initiatives and the inclusive nature of your approach to this category shows in the numbers of projects that include both pupils, residents and the farming community. Have you considered building on all the initiatives already carried out by the residents by participating as a committee in the Green Homes Scheme run by An Taisce? This is a sister programme to the Green Schools initiative and many centres take part. See [www.greenhomes.ie](http://www.greenhomes.ie) for more details.

#### **Tidiness:**

In general the village and its surrounds were tidy. Roadsides and surface were well maintained. We appreciate your efforts at discouraging residents from spraying verges outside their homes as this can give a burnt unattractive appearance and is not a very environmentally friendly approach. Regular maintenance to prevent weeds taking hold is the way to go to avoid weed killer. Keep up the good work in this category.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Once again the individual homes in the village and their boundaries were presented to a very high standard. The stone wall on the Windgap approach road was being constructed, so we will look forward to seeing this work completed for next years visit.

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

The standard of verges and approaches to the town were good with road signs clean. The oval town sign just past Kearns Bridge was somewhat obscured by branches of the tree planted in front of it and a little pruning is required to open it up to view. Other town signs were well presented and village hedges were trimmed neatly. Keep up the good work. The works to the Mill Bridge were noted and in time the new mortar here at the cobbled parapet will mellow and age.

#### **General Impression:**

As a committee you seem to have a positive approach to your participation in the Tidy Towns Competition. The enthusiastic approach to the work being done is a credit to you all and contributes to the sense of community pride on the ground. Well done to all involved in this year's submission, taking into account the other workloads of your members, and we wish you continued success in 2014 as you strive for more medals.