

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenmore Lawn Estate** Ref: **2131**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **197**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	0	30
The Built Environment	50	0	23
Landscaping	50	0	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	26
Tidiness	30	0	16
Waste Minimisation	20	0	5
Residential Areas	40	0	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	29
General Impression	10	0	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Glenmore Lawn Estate is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. We are delighted that you have taken this first step and hope that it will mark a turning point in how your community views itself. You are encouraged to get a hold of the Tidy Towns Handbook as this is full of useful information and tips on how to proceed in the contest. You have started with 12 on your committee and this is a healthy number. Perhaps you could divide your labour so that different groups examine particular topics in the contest. It is great to read how you have already made contact with Limerick city council, are there other groups that could be worthwhile contacts e.g. sporting or social clubs. How about the Institute of Technology which is nearby? You say that you have no schools in your area but there may be other ways to involve young people. Is there a youth group? If not, why not create one? As you say, you are starting with a blank canvas. If community spirit is at a low ebb perhaps you need a project, for example a community garden, to demonstrate that change can happen. An initial high-profile success can attract new volunteers and so start a virtuous cycle.

Many thanks for your map and do use this to highlight areas for projects where been completed. The adjudicator will not know your area and will want to inspect any work done as this is where points are awarded.

Consider preparing a three-year plan and this itself would win you points. This would identify actions under each of the headings and set achievable target dates for every one. This plan would help you set priorities and identify where you need outside assistance e.g. from Limerick county council. See the Tidy Towns Handbook for more information.

### The Built Environment:

You left this area of your form blank. This category looks at the presentation of commercial community buildings, the use of Irish and the interpretation of built heritage features. These may not all apply to your area but some will.

Spar is looking quite well but has some graffiti around the door. It has a cracked windowpane and some bent bollards. It was otherwise clean and tidy however.

The entrance to Cratloe Wood student village looks well and was clean and tidy on adjudication day. The commercial units here looked well but broken glass at the off-licence creates a poor impression.

### **Landscaping:**

You mentioned that you have installed planting arrangements in strategic areas but it is important that you identify where these are on your map so that the adjudicator can give you full credit.

Landscaping is not just about flowers for summer colour. Another important component is the use of trees and shrubs for year-round effect. They consume less resources than annual flowers and are more effective when you want to fill a space or screen a wall for instance.

The green area beside Spar already has some greenery that screens the wall here. This could be augmented with additional planting of hedge trees e.g. hawthorn.

The central green area is well trimmed and could be good for landscaping features. The variety of Street trees here e.g. cherry and rowan greatly enhance the appearance of this location.

Some very attractive flower beds were admired in a number of common areas and these are excellent. Try to build on these for next year.

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

You did not give any details of potential projects and under this heading. Again, try to refer to the Tidy Towns manual to build an understanding of what the adjudicator is looking for here. In brief, it is trying to connect communities with the natural world and this applies just as much to urban areas as it does to rural ones. For example do people like to feed garden birds or go fishing? You could hold a wildlife gardening workshop to see how you can attract birds and insects your garden. Contact the heritage officer of Limerick city council to see how this could be arranged.

### **Litter Control:**

You have identified litter is one of your major challenges. Certainly, for many groups this is the single most important factor in their area's appearance. And here you need a two-pronged approach. Firstly you need to get the message out there that littering damages the quality-of-life for residents. Secondly you need to be conducting frequent and (perhaps daily) litter patrols. Try to get some high-viz vests with 'Tidy Towns' across the back to raise awareness of your group and what you're doing. Taking part in the national spring clean in April can be a good way of getting people out and attracting new volunteers.

The green area beside Spar was littered. However within the estate itself litter control was much better.

### **Tidiness:**

You have already identified a number of worthwhile projects under this heading. A useful way to approach this issue is through an audit of your area. In this way items can be dealt with in a systematic fashion.

Your neighbourhood is generally tidy with no major issues. There are some points of improvement however: graffitied lamp posts should be painted over; the wire fence with barbed wire is quite unsightly. This could be cheaply screened with rolls of bamboo from a garden centre.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Do not confuse this category with litter control. This heading aims to encourage communities to reduce the volume of waste that they generate. Do people practice home composting? If not why not try to arrange a demonstration workshop with Limerick county council? Do you have access to recycling facilities? Ensure that

everyone knows where this is and is familiar with the range of items that are accepted. You could also hold a bring and buy sale to raise funds for your group or promote [freetradeireland.ie](http://freetradeireland.ie) to find new owners for unwanted items.

**Residential Areas:**

You have identified signage as an issue and it is agreed that this is needed. Homes throughout were presented to a very high standard. Aherlow Close has nice houses with mature gardens and well maintained boundary walls. Weeding of kerbs is required in some locations.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfacing is generally good but in places e.g. at Galtee Close, it needs improvement. Approach Limerick City council in this regard.

You have already identified the issue of signage and this should be applied also to nameplates at the entrance to your estate.

**General Impression:**

We are delighted that the Glenmore Lawn Estate has entered the Tidy Towns contest. We hope you are here for the long haul and that your initial success will revive community spirit. Best of luck!