

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Naughtons Place
Limerick**

Ref: **2130**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **27/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	28
The Built Environment	50	0	26
Landscaping	50	0	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	15
Litter Control	50	0	20
Tidiness	30	0	18
Waste Minimisation	20	0	5
Residential Areas	40	0	38
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	31
General Impression	10	0	5
TOTAL MARK	400	0	206

Overall Development Approach:

Naughton's Place is most welcome to the 2012 tidy towns competition. It is hoped that you will find the contest to be a force for positive change in your small community and, as you say yourselves, recapture the days when you were winners of Limerick's best street. In order to do this it is vital that you gain as wide a support base as possible. You have made contact with your local school and Nolan's and their participation is vital. In a small community such as this it should be possible to go door-to-door and make face-to-face contact with all the residents. This kind of approach can be effective where leaflets have failed, particularly in relation to rented homes. You should also include landlords here as they will benefit from your new-found energies.

You have four on your committee and this is not bad. You do not indicate how often you meet or the level of support you receive beyond the committee. Please do include this detail for next year.

In order to maintain momentum, and succeed in certain areas, you will need to create contact with Limerick city council at the least. You mentioned elsewhere that they supplied you with cleaning kits so some contact clearly has commenced. This is essential as some improvements you would like to see happen will be beyond your direct control. Do feel free to include photos in your application as this gives the adjudicator a good idea of the issues you face or the impacts of your projects.

The Built Environment:

Naughton's Place is situated in an old part of Limerick's inner-city, just off the South Circular Road. As a small area you have little by way of heritage or municipal buildings although you are fortunate to have good links with Nolan motor factor and the school. What is the school called? This adjudicator searched in vain for a

name on its exterior wall. Perhaps this could be addressed for 2013 (we later found the name at the main entrance along the main road). The school was flying its green flag proudly and is a fine building with a well presented exterior.

Nolan's motor factors has a well painted facade and they are commended for hanging colourful baskets. Painting the metal railings green around the yard boundary would greatly enhance the presentation here.

Landscaping:

A lack of open ground does not preclude you from doing some landscaping works. Flowers and trees can be installed in tubs and baskets etc and can greatly enhance hard surfaces.

The abundance of hanging baskets was admired and well done to all those who made the effort.

The rear of the school was unfortunately bare and the lack of any greenery lends an opportunity to brighten things up. The main entrance on O'Connell Avenue was a different matter and the use of small trees and flowers is very effective here, even if some are on the dead side. The railings on the St Gerard Street side need to be painted while there is graffiti on the ESB box and a rusty green box that are unsightly. Would Naughton's Place residents help the school out with a volunteer day to address these items?

As you have no ground for planting you need to get creative. Are there locations that would fit a birch tree in a large tub? Even one or two of these would bring a sense of fresh air and soften straight lines.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You indicated that no projects are underway in this category. Admittedly you may not have any obvious wildlife habitats that are of value. However gardens are a significant habitat in an urban context and attracting garden birds can bring people into close contact with wildlife. This benefits the birds but particularly the people who can feel disconnected from the natural world in built up areas. You could teach yourselves wildlife gardening if one or two of the residents were interested in this as it simply requires the presence of suitable food and cover. It may even already exist!

There must surely be ways in which the school could get involved in this area. Do they have a garden that could be set aside for insects? You could participate in the guided walks to the Shannon with Limerick City Council. The Shannon is a special area of conservation and home to internationally important wildlife.

Litter Control:

Well done for organising the cleanup day in April. Was this part of the national spring clean? Some photos of what you achieved here would be welcome. Do you carry out regular litter patrols? You mentioned that antisocial behaviour is a source of much litter. This is probably a source of stress also for your community. You are urged to deal with this problem with the gardai and not let it slide.

Sadly the street was littered on adjudication day with a variety of items. It is recommended that regular litter patrols are undertaken in order to achieve a high standard.

Tidiness:

The street is generally very tidy and this is largely down to the residents. Good road surfacing helps. Graffiti is a problem and one that is hard to deal with. Ideally it should be addressed speedily and this discourages the practice. Work with Limerick City Council on ways in which this could be done.

A loose wire is hanging from a broken aerial on the 'for sale' house while half a gutter should be removed from this corner.

It would be lovely to get the wooden poles and overhead wires removed. This would be a long-term project but one in which other centres have had success. Write to the ESB to alert them and see if they could put it on their list.

Waste Minimisation:

You indicated no projects have been undertaken, or are planned under this category. Yet you say the school

is on its second green flag! They will have dealt with waste minimisation in a comprehensive way and you would gain immensely from finding out what projects they undertook. Many of these are repeatable within your community. Don't be put off because you are a small estate, everybody has their contribution to make and small changes can lead to big differences.

Try a home composting workshop, a bring and buy sale, or promote freetradeireland.ie to find new owners for unwanted items. Do you have access to recycling facilities? Your community should be aware of the full range of recycling available to them. See the Tidy Towns Handbook for more information.

Residential Areas:

The houses are the real highlight of Naughton's Place and it can be seen why you once won the smartest street in Limerick. This is clearly within your reach again! The colour scheme creates a wonderfully warm atmosphere that is full of character. The little tiling feature on number eight is a little point of interest. Well done on the beautiful presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfacing on St Gerard Street is excellent although the conditions of footpaths is somewhat worse. The smart street nameplates is attractive although another is needed at the junction of St Gerard Street.

General Impression:

Naughton's Place is most welcome to the Tidy Towns and although one of our smaller centres it is clear from past history that it can punch above its weight. Try to select a range of even small projects across the categories for 2013 and you will be bound to build on your initial success. Refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas. Best of luck!