

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Pallasgreen (Residenceev ASS)** Ref: **2132**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **197**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	0	32
The Built Environment	50	0	29
Landscaping	50	0	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	10
Litter Control	50	0	24
Tidiness	30	0	19
Waste Minimisation	20	0	3
Residential Areas	40	0	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	30
General Impression	10	0	5
TOTAL MARK	400	0	197

Overall Development Approach:

Pallasgreen is most welcome to the 2012 TidyTowns competition. It is always encouraging to welcome new towns to the contest and it is hoped that you will find this to be a fruitful endeavour on your part.

In the first instance you should refer to the TidyTowns Handbook as this is full of useful information and tips on how to proceed in the contest. A good start would be to start preparation of a three-year plan. This plan will give focus to your work and allow you to set long-term aims. Large tasks can be broken down into manageable actions. You have already made a good start with eight people on your committee, meeting monthly. You have identified Fás and Limerick county council as agencies that can provide you with assistance and these relationships will yield dividends over time. Do continuously try to reach out to the wider community and involve as great a spectrum as possible. This can be done through volunteer evenings, fundraising events and communication through such sources as Facebook. Wearing high-viz tidy towns vests with your logo across the back will give good advertising for the work that you do and perhaps attract new volunteers.

The Built Environment:

Your use of photos here is good but do build up a file of these as it will be useful to look back in years to come, to see how progress has been made. The Garda barracks is an imposing building of heritage value and despite the fact that it is in private hands Limerick county council do have powers with regard to derelict structures. It would be worthwhile discussing with them your options here.

Coffey's Bar although derelict, is not in bad shape. Removing hanging wires from its facade would greatly

enhance its appearance. The Red Deer looks well but cigarette litter at its car park and entrance detracts somewhat. E O'Dwyer's facade is cleanly maintained while flowers at John Harty butchers add a welcome splash of colour.

St. Albe's credit union has a fine grounds and flags on its poles would be welcome. Your broken fence was noted and it is hoped that you can address this in time. The statue to Paddy Ryan is a point of interest, while the nearby 'driving routes' sign needs to be cleaned. The GAA grounds are tidy and well presented. The Chaser pub is a real attraction and is wonderfully painted and adorned with flowers.

Landscaping:

Well done on making a good start in this heading by planting trees and erecting hanging baskets. When planning your landscaping preference should be given to planting for year-round effect i.e. trees and shrubs, and to be selective in the location of annual flowers. Pallasgreen is endowed with many fine, mature trees and these are wonderful landscape assets.

Flower beds at the post office are very attractive while tall trees and well maintained lawns enhance landscaping in this area.

Rows of ash trees on the Limerick approach are a lovely feature. Replanting the hawthorn hedge where there is now a wire fence would be a nice project.

The graveyard is a wonderful feature and clearly great care and attention goes into its upkeep. The flower baskets here are particularly attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You left this section blank on your form. In this area it is intended to encourage your community to celebrate their natural heritage. To begin with this means identifying what features you have that are good for wildlife e.g. hedgerows, tree lines, railway sidings, small woods and ponds. These areas can be home to a wide variety of plants and animals, even people's gardens. Points can be earned in this category by raising awareness of these features through surveys and heritage walks. You could contact your County Heritage Officer for further information on how to develop this area.

Litter Control:

This category looks at how the issue of litter is approached. You could participate in the national spring clean or carry out routine litter patrols. Working with the school can bring litter awareness to students on an ongoing basis. Do you have particular litter black spots or similar issues? These should be addressed through a litter plan.

Litter clearly is not a major issue for your town and only minor items were noted. A problem area for many towns is the bring bank and sadly this location was strewn with empty boxes and plastic bags. The nearby bin meanwhile was full and the surrounding area needs attention.

Tidiness:

This area looks at general issues of clutter such as signage, wires, neat surfacing of roads and footpaths etc. Empty poles are one issued that could be addressed through an audit and working with Limerick county council. Broadly speaking Pallasgreen is tidy in appearance and with the exception of the Garda barracks has no major detracting features. Many towns have tried to get their overhead wires put underground and you could write to the ESB to see if this could be addressed. It would be a long-term goal.

Waste Minimisation:

Ireland produces more rubbish per person than any other European country. Most of this goes to landfill. To address this problem you must tackle it at source. That is what waste minimisation is all about. A cornerstone of this approach is the green flag initiative from An Taisce. If your school has a green flag it should be mentioned here. Schools have come up with innovative solutions to waste that could be applied across the community so linking up can yield real benefits. You could start with highlighting over-packaging and food waste or holding a composting workshop.

Residential Areas:

While lacking significant residential estates Pallasgreen does have a lot of private homes. These are all very well cared for and many had attractive gardens. Canon Lee Park has attractive homes but perhaps need some additional landscaping e.g. around the name plaque.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Cappamore highlights Pallasgreen's rural setting. The village nameplate is clear and clean but some planting would create an attraction. The fine hedgerows are a great asset for the town on its quieter approaches. They freshen our air and enhance our landscape. Residents should be encouraged to compost grass cuttings in a designated area and so avoid dumping these in hedges. On the Old Pallas approach the name sign is clear and clean but could be enlivened with some planting.

General Impression:

We are delighted that Pallasgreen has chosen to enter Tidy Towns and it is hoped it would be the start of a long and fruitful relationship. You have made a great start and could build on this by choosing some projects under the key headings for 2013. Best of luck!