

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delvin** Ref: **1113**
County: **Westmeath** Mark: **191**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	27	29
The Built Environment	50	25	26
Landscaping	50	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13	15
Litter Control	50	25	25
Tidiness	30	12	13
Waste Minimisation	20	0	3
Residential Areas	40	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	400	180	191

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry form and the excellent map of the village I note you have 10 persons involved and you are holding enough meetings to plan ahead and monitor progress. Good to find that you are getting support from Westmeath County Council and the local businesses. The people of Delvin are well informed of your activities. Great to see that you enjoyed participation in the competition which was your first time last year.

There are plenty events in Delvin to bring the people together and make friends. This means you have a good approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

The old church ruin is a great historical monument, but I fear the ivy will destruct some of the walls and you could inform the conservation officer at Westmeath County Council about this.

Delvin Castle is a landmark building in this area and looked to be in good condition.

Nice well kept shops are in Main Street ,and I admired Lenihan's family butchers and the little pharmacy shop front.

The art work on the Candy Store and the adjoining houses is excellent – well done. The Blue Hackle pub stood out, and across the road there is the splendid Catholic Church with the tall spire and it is surrounded with great landscaping.

Delvin Handball club has an excellent appearance from the roadside, and Youth Reach alongside looked well. St Patricks Hall is a fine facility for the town and nice flowers were growing on the bank beside it.

The small Garda Station looked neat and tidy. The large school was well presented with the spacious car park.

Landscaping:

There is a lovely picnic area across from the mart, and other small bits of landscaping stand out. Landscaping is excellent at the Catholic Church. Good quality tall poles have attractive floral displays that added freshness and colour to the surroundings. There is a natural landscape to this area that requires little intervention with the splendid traditional stone walls and mature trees that only requires maintenance. There is excellent landscaping in the new estates.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You are complimented for attending the seminar on best practice to be put in place when taking care of old graveyards that are a haven for all types of wildlife. You could try to get some local people involved in your committee to tell us all about the wildlife of this lovely part of county Westmeath. In some locations the people link up with the schools and sponsor art and essay competitions on the wildlife off the area, and this increases awareness of the local wildlife.

Litter Control:

I note your action in regard to getting the "take away outlets" to clean up outside their places. It would be great if the council street cleaner could pay weekly visits to your place. You could partake in the national spring clean-up that is initiated by An Taisce in conjunction with the county council whereby pickers, gloves and plastic bags are provided free. All the material that is collected is then disposed of by the council in a responsible manner. There was some litter on the streets mainly cigarette ends, but in fairness this is a national problem, and all we can do is to highlight its untidiness.

Tidiness:

The new graveyard is a credit to the people of Delvin – well done. Those sturdy stone walls are well presented and they have a forever new appearance when properly maintained as they are in Delvin. There were some issues raised in last year's report that are attended to- well done.

Waste Minimisation:

It was great to see the green flag outside the school and this tells us that the children, parents and teachers are taking good care of the local environment. This is an opportunity for the children to educate the parents going on what they learn in those very practical lessons in green flag programmes. You could introduce the motto of reduce reuse and recycle, and of course composting is the way forward where good class material is produced to enrich the flower beds of the village and the vegetable gardens at home.

Residential Areas:

I visited some estates and nice ones are on the Ballivor road but Cluan Lorcan had some untidy grassed margin.

Lacora Glen is a great new estate with spacious green in the middle

Castle view has splendid houses with large greens and young trees.

Beautiful cut stone houses are admired at the cross below the mart and some good houses are near the church.

Other town style houses and stand alone houses had impressive displays of shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns that make for attractive aesthetics in the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The long stretch of footpath on the Mullingar road makes for safe and pleasurable walking. Good traffic calming measures help greatly to control the speeds around the village. There are clear and distinct road signs all around. Road surfaces are fairly good on the approach roads but a few bumpy stretches are to be found in the village and notably outside the mart.

General Impression:

In this your second year I could see you are making progress. As you state people do little things on their own and this is obvious from going around the village. The important thing is to try and get as many people as possible involved and all the clubs, sporting and others, could provide a member for your committee and this will help to spread the workload. You mention the famine graveyard and this is a project that you could undertake for next year, but be very careful with whatever is done as it is more a case of what not to do in these projects. I advise you to tell the conservation officer at Westmeath County Council of whatever plans you have for the old graveyard and that person will then start you off on the right track. Under no circumstances should anybody do work of any nature there without being properly briefed. There is a little book called "The care and conservation of Graveyards" and it could be available free from the county council ware services section. And you could purchase Irish Stone Walls published by Pat McAfee ISBN 13: 978-0-86278-372-2.