

# Tidy Towns Competition 2010

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leenane** Ref: **200**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **213**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2010**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2009</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	33	34
The Built Environment	50	29	31
Landscaping	50	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14	15
Litter Control	50	26	27
Waste Minimisation	20	5	5
Tidiness	30	13	15
Residential Areas	40	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>213</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Leenane TidyTowns committee for the very clear application form and beautifully hand-drawn map. It was particularly useful to the adjudicator that you clearly marked on the map the locations of projects that you are working on. This greatly facilitates the awarding of points under the various categories. Your Amenity Plan will come to an end this year so now is a good time to start thinking about the 2011-2013 period. What vision do you have for the village? Your new three-year plan should set actions under each of the contest headings with realistic timeframes. See the TidyTowns manual for more information.

### The Built Environment:

The road widening and new stone walls are great improvements to the village. The derelict building beside Gaynor's needs attention – could it be painted? The new bridge is superb and is beautifully complimented by the wide paving and neat road surfacing. The Forge is a marvellous building which adds real character in this location. The Sheep and Wool museum is a fine building but the signage is not in keeping with the town's character. The school looks great. The church and graveyard are wonderful features on the outskirts of the village. The Leenane Hotel looks well although the broken wall at the base of the sign creates a poor impression.

### Landscaping:

Colourful floral displays and new seating was admired in the village centre. Planting at the Forge is very eye-catching although signage here should be removed as it detracts from the scene. Planting around the Blackberry café sign is attractive and good for year-round effect (although some shrubs are not doing so well and may need to be replaced).

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

Great work on putting up bat boxes – do you know if they have been occupied yet? Killary harbour and the 12 bens area surrounding the village are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and so are among the most important areas in Ireland for nature conservation. Find out more from your National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger or on [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie). The best approach to this category is to develop a wildlife plan – firstly by surveying the village surrounds for habitats and species and subsequently setting actions to enhance areas or raise awareness of them. The Walking Festival is a great opportunity to tie in with this. Japanese knotweed has infested the river bank on the Maam road. This is a major threat to local nature - see [www.invasivespeciesireland.ie](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.ie). The 'flora of Killary harbour' and other signs need to be replaced as they are faded.

### **Litter Control:**

Your 'mega clean up' of the shoreline is a great initiative. Litter control through the village was excellent – well done! The bring centre was spotless. A black spot is the accumulation of plastic waste this is washed up on the shore near the bring centre – an unfortunate indicator of the state of our seas. The signs asking for a litter free Leenane are now faded and should be up-dated or removed. The car parks were virtually free of litter. Cigarette ends outside Hamilton's bar are a problem.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Remember that this category is about striving to eliminate the generation of waste. The school's Green Flag application is crucial here so be sure to highlight this if and when it happens. Why not work with local businesses here. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a Green Hotels initiative that is focussed on reducing waste and energy and so brings down costs. Recycling is a vital component of waste management but is less preferable to reducing waste in the first place or re-using materials.

### **Tidiness:**

The setting back of poles and new buildings has done wonders for the appearance of the village – well done for this great achievement! The Eircom phone boxes look dilapidated and should be taken down. The play area looks sparse and somewhat neglected. Signs for FLOGAS should be taken down.

### **Residential Areas:**

The 'planting for wildlife' is a great project. How can you follow up on this? E.g. through holding a wildlife garden contest, or even a 'best garden' contest. This would help generate local pride – which is what TidyTowns is all about! Homes throughout the village and on approach roads were admired as all were presented to a very high standard. Leenane Lodge deserves a special mention. In some cases garden boundaries are of wooded fences or exotic shrubs and this should be discouraged in favour of stone walls that are more in keeping with the landscape.

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

The scenery in the main star on the approach roads. On the Maam approach some advertising hoarding is inappropriate while field boundaries should be of stone or hedging as befits the locality (as opposed to wire fencing). The safety measures are excellent and will create a better atmosphere for everyone in the village. Road surfacing on the approach from Clifden is poor – perhaps you could work with Galway county council on this. What are the plans for the large area of bare ground here?

### **General Impression:**

Leenane is a beautiful village that has been gifted by nature. The stunning scenery does much of the work for you but the efforts of the TidyTowns committee are essential in maintaining the complimentary relationship between village and surrounds. The built environment has been greatly enhanced in recent years. A wildlife or waste project would give you an opportunity to win points across categories.