

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigallen** Ref: **424**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **224**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	24	26
The Built Environment	50	31	31
Landscaping	50	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Litter Control	50	30	30
Tidiness	30	11	11
Waste Minimisation	20	6	7
Residential Areas	40	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29	29
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	400	221	224

Overall Development Approach:

Greetings Carrigallen and welcome to the Supervalu TidyTowns Competition 2012. Firstly thank you for your entry submission. Your committee is working hard to improve the village and is commended for their efforts. We are pleased to note that you have a number of agencies and bodies supporting your works. Voluntary support and back-up from the wider community is essential to do well in this competition and we hope your improvements in the competition over recent years can motivate more locals to get involved in your work programmes, as we note that you feel attendance at your meetings could be improved. You engage with the community through meetings, newsletter, local notes and via text. Did you consider the use of email and social network sites as recommended last year? Many centres have used Facebook to their advantage recently and gained an interest from a wider audience. As also mentioned to you in the past a multi annual plan is one of the cornerstones for progressing in this competition. Adjudicators firmly believe in the benefits a simple TidyTowns plan can bring to a centre. Collaboration with five other villages was cited in your adjudication report last year and you mention in your application that consultants are developing a five-year plan for you. It would have benefitted you to include a draft of the plan this year. Although not mentioned on your submission we viewed your website (www.carrigallen.com) which is very informative and we feel you should investigate if you could use the community news section to highlight your activities and work programmes, meetings etc.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland occupies a nice location in the village centre and enhances the streetscape looking up the Main Street towards Church Street. Weeding at the base of the Health Centre boundary wall would tidy its appearance. The library was clean and well presented. We visited the vocational school and noted the green flag here. Little Acorns was noted for its cheery and tidy appearance. The provision of suitable street furniture and maintenance of same comes into this category. The seating at the mill wheel at the Cornmill Theatres and

at the lakeside (close to the information sign) needs attention and should be repaired or replaced. We noted work has begun on the Old School House above the COI, no doubt this will be a useful community building and heritage centre once sensitively restored. You are doing well negotiating with the owners of derelict buildings, a tiresome and often thankless job – keep up the good work. The stretch of road from the Fair Green houses to the Main Street is in need of some attention.

Landscaping:

Floral displays on the streets were attractive. Kilbracken Arms Hotel was looking well but be careful not to overdo it, planting should be used to enhance the buildings that need a little colour to present them at their best. We are pleased to note that you are using peat free compost. We also note in your projects planned that you plan to establish flower beds at the base of trees on the Mohill Road and on Main Street. Adjudicators are not in favour of planting bedding plants to the base of trees as the root zone of the tree is disturbed annually by the actions of digging planting holes and the bedding plants also compete with the tree roots for air and moisture resulting in trees showing signs of stress and poor leaf growth.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noted your allotments at the Barley Field housing estate. Barley Field Residents Association are doing sterling work composting, water harvesting and growing their own in a plot that they cleared up. We walked a section of the Millstream Walk, to the first-time visitor, this was quite hard to find. As you recognise you are fortunate to have Carrigallen Lough so close to the village core. The wildlife write up provided on Carrigallen Lough is informative and we wonder have you taken the suggestion of the author onboard? This category encourages TidyTowns entrants to make their wildlife findings public through a variety of media. Publishing this document on the town website would be a cost effective way to do this.

Litter Control:

We are glad that you got a number of young people involved in the An Taisce National Spring Clean – well done to the eight young people in the photo provided and we hope to see them again next year! The adjudication report last year mentioned a planned poster campaign in local schools and public buildings to alert people to the benefits of litter control; we wonder did you proceed with this? Residents from Barley Field and Cois Locha are also to be commended for partaking in regular litter picks. Cigarette butts were noted on the pavement outside Mitchells bar. The mill wheel was admired but there is quite a lot of litter gathered there beneath the wheel. A litter control plan would benefit you in this category and should form part of your TidyTowns plan. The bottle banks were visited and we noted some rubbish stuffed between the receptacles.

Tidiness:

You benefit from having the services underground in the village core which adds to the streetscape. Care is required on finishes of lighting standards and water meters along footpaths. The adjudicator noted a number of lighting standards that were poorly finished at their base throughout the village. A water metre poorly finished on the footpath on Main Street just down from Mitchells bar is acting as a litter trap for cigarette butts. When work is on-going liaise with the County Council to ensure a high standard of workmanship is maintained. Parking at St. Marys Roman Catholic church appears to be somewhat ad-hoc. Poor traffic management or poor parking is considered under this category. A number of cars were parked along the roadside adjacent to the church even though there were a large number of designated parking spaces across the road. The adjudicator noted that a number of signs should be cleaned including the 'school children crossing' sign and the angling information sign. Weeding along boundary walls is required in places; the old Gardai station is one such place. There is a plethora of signs at the main junction; the worn-out Esso sign is not very attractive to the background of these signs. The adjudicator wonders if these are all required. The gable end of a property across from the Post Office requires painting as this is quite a visual property looking down Main Street towards Church Street. There is a tin shed just out the Mohill Road which is becoming very rusted and unsightly.

Waste Minimisation:

We note that you are working with the local authority at a recent recycling event, promoting the event and providing transport for people to take their goods to the collection point; well done in supporting this. You mentioned that you work with Forogie during the school holidays in promoting waste prevention but did not give us any details. We are pleased that you are working on recycling projects but please bear in mind that this category is in relation to waste minimisation so you need to concentrate your efforts further up the waste management hierarchy to reuse and minimisation. We noted the provision of recycling bins at the Barley Garden playpark. Scoil Mhuire are leading the way with their green flag – well done. Congratulations to the Vocational School on the Mohill Road for recently achieving green flag status. We note they have a committee working on 'green issues', perhaps the committee may be interested in getting involved in TidyTowns? Other high scoring centres in this competition have developed Junior TidyTowns committees. The enthusiasm, wealth of ideas and different points of view from the younger generation can be a breath of

fresh air. Perhaps also students taking part in Gaisce - The Presidents Awards, may also be interested getting involved in TidyTowns. We note that arrangements are in place for the Environment Officer from Leitrim County Council to speak to two schools in the town – we hope this is a success.

Residential Areas:

A number of houses have well presented gardens in Cluain Alainn, while others are quite overgrown. While we acknowledge the green in this estate has been cut it is not presented to its best. The grass area at the entrance to this estate along the wall and the green in Cois Locha is more to the standard expected in residential areas. We wonder is there a residents association in place for Cluain Alainn? The unfinished portion of Cois Locha is unfortunate to have roadside frontage. We visited Church Manor which was also presented well. We are pleased that you have made contact with householders in the newer housing estates in the town and are liaising with the local authority and the developers concerned in seeking improvements for these householders.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road past the Church of Ireland church needs repair and various sections of the footpaths throughout the village could be upgraded also. A new stretch of footpath from the Roman Catholic Church to the playground was noted however we seen that cracks are appearing here already which the adjudicator has assumed has only recently been installed. A large section of the footpath on Church Street requires washing as it is becoming quite mossy. Premises on approach roads should aim to weed the frontage regularly to enhance the appearance. Encourage businesses to landscape their areas.

General Impression:

The adjudicator feels that perhaps you may be doing yourselves out of additional marks by not submitting supporting information to back up and compliment your application. The application form can be completed on-line should you need additional space. We hope that your plan will be finalised for next year as this should assist you to focus your work projects and allow you to increase your marks in a number of sections. The adjudicator has pointed out a number of issues and presented you with a number of recommendations which we hope you can take on board over the next few years as you have good potential to do well in this competition. We thank each and everyone from Carrigallen who have contributed to TidyTowns in the village this year and wish you well for the year ahead.