

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Corofin** Ref: **64**
County: **Clare** Mark: **262**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	33	34
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	10
Tidiness	30	18	19
Residential Areas	40	31	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	32
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254	262

Overall Development Approach:

It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Corofin. Your adjudicator this year had not been in the town for many years and enjoyed seeing all the changes for the better. However, please appreciate that it is not within the scope of this Report to comment on all the improvements you have made – rather to highlight some and also offer constructive criticism. Your extremely full and comprehensive completion of the Entry Form and particularly the maps were most helpful. It would seem that the Tidy Towns Committee is motivating awareness throughout the community, both through physical work and liaison with other groups. Please submit a Three / Five Year Tidy Towns Plan next year.

The Built Environment:

The Churches (one now the Heritage Centre Museum) were beautifully presented. It is suggested that the Library behind the Heritage Centre could be enhanced with planting against the drab walls. The planting and red water pump in front of the Heritage Centre make an effective composition. The Burren Information display is most interesting. The demise of the 1945 Hall is a shame. Congratulations to the school for the green flag awards ! The garden in front of the Medical centre is an asset. Along the Main Street the standard was mixed, ranging from the vacant to the shabby and up the scale to the brightly painted. P Crowley with its old sash windows is a treasure. The Post Office, indeed as several other premises, appeared to have been recently painted. The power washing of unoccupied buildings on Main Street was a good idea. The Centra car park was relatively tidy - just keep the base of walls weed free. The Hostel with camping area was neatly presented.

Landscaping:

The bridge with hanging baskets looked most picturesque. Other planters around the town too were admired. The established expansive green areas had been well cared for. The gravelled garden beside the museum and the repairing of the broken seat are commended. Your ongoing programme of tree planting is most worthwhile as it will leave a valuable legacy for future generations. Also the use of the polytunnel is a good development.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The jetty and picnic area at Lough Inchiquinn was a simply presented, tranquil place to discover (presumably the wildlife agree !) – you now just need to remove grass from outside kerbs here. Hopefully, the completion of the

heritage trails will occur before too long as they will be an intrinsic element of the enjoyment of Corofin for residents and visitors alike. Besides the provision of bird boxes please let us know what other work you intend to undertake. Have you carried out any surveys in recent times ?

Litter Control:

Litter was quite evident on the forecourt of the Texaco garage on the Ennis road and there was a light scattering throughout the town. However, generally there appeared to be less than last year – thanks to the Council and An Taisce Spring Clean with the school children and volunteers. Hopefully, with this rigorous litter control system in place there will be progressively less to collect as everyone begins to realise that it is simply not acceptable to litter our beautiful environment.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

The outline description in the Entry Form of your projects under this heading were noted. Do please let us have information on management of all waste issues next year once you have studied the revised content of the Handbook which is available for download at www.tidytowns.ie. The category of Waste Minimisation has been renamed Sustainable Waste and Resource Management. This is to reflect the greater emphasis now being put on Waste Prevention ahead of Waste Treatment. It is important to submit relevant material to give the adjudicator a clear picture of the work being carried out. You have a great opportunity to be creative and effective in the prevention of waste and in the sparing usage of resources. You should consider any resource efficiencies across the community, so please also bear in mind water, energy and transport. Highlight any progress in reducing usage. This category is not about litter. Recycling initiatives (which should be well established in the community at this stage) should have a more minor focus. However, initiatives should be mentioned as recycling forms part of a proper community waste management system. Waste Prevention means preventing waste being generated in the first place, reducing the amount that is produced, reducing the hazardous content of that waste and reducing its impact on the environment. Once you have prevented waste as much as possible, you should look at any possibilities to reuse, then to recycle as much as possible. "Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". It might be worth establishing a sub-committee to focus on this category, including those who may have a specific interest in this area. Your Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officer is available to advise you.

Tidiness:

Open yards need constant vigilance to ensure they are kept clear of debris and weeds, similarly lanes, gateways and all back areas. A consistent high standard of all parts of the town visible from the public domain is required to make significant progress in the Competition. The improvement of signage is most welcome.

Residential Areas:

Weedy entrances of some properties looked poor, especially where contrasting with well cared for houses and gardens. There were also numerous instances of freshly painted houses where boundary walls had been allowed to become shabby. However, others with stone walls looked very well. Loughagoona Estate and Inchiquin Park Estate were commendably neat and well presented. Down the cul-de-sac behind the Roman Catholic Church weeds along kerbsides and base of walls were plentiful. While the houses past the school were brightly painted their boundary walls tended to be drab and badly stained. Glebe Estate on the Gort road with mature trees was particularly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The planted boat with the rebuilt stone wall behind created an effective welcome on the Ennis approach but unfortunately grass verges elsewhere, apart from established greens, were generally overgrown at the time of adjudication. Even a single mown strip next to the road would have been a help – this had very effectively been undertaken on the road down to Lough Inchiquinn. The speed limit signs on the Ballyvaughan road were almost obscured by overgrowth but the wide green areas had been tended. The red painted seats and water pump in the vicinity of the grotto and elsewhere were admired. During adjudication strimming was in action on the Gort Road but simultaneously exposing litter. The car park opposite the camping area was tidy. The GAA grounds and playground were neat apart from litter along the fence at the entrance. It was great to see the exposing of the fine wall at Riverstown Bridge and the removal of briars at the grotto and Lachtagoona. While some road signs needed cleaning the general standard of street furniture was very good.

General Impression:

Great enthusiasm is evident in Corofin. With a greater level of consistency, achieved only through total co-ordination of all the community and representative groups, you have the potential to succeed in the Tidy Towns Competition.