

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Corofin** Ref: **64**
County: **Clare** Mark: **251**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	0	33
The Built Environment	50	0	30
Landscaping	50	0	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	25
Litter Control	50	0	34
Waste Minimisation	20	0	9
Tidiness	30	0	19
Residential Areas	40	0	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	30
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	251

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2011 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, a clear map and programme of work which were of great assistance to the adjudicator. The newly formed Tidy Towns committee is to be congratulated on engaging the help of the R.S.S. scheme and Clare Local Development and no doubt this approach of widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance will pay dividends in time. Your liaison with the local school is to be commended and would appear to be all embracing as regards the various categories under the Tidy Towns agenda.

The Built Environment:

One of Ireland's best known Museum and Genealogy Centres is nicely presented in a street which contains some fine traditional townhouses decorated with a range of colourful window boxes and hanging baskets. St Brigid's church was a little drab and had weeds growing along the baseline of the front wall. Opposite, the Pottery Shop looked stunning and, together with the adjoining houses, makes a significant contribution to the built environment. P. Crowley's Pub sets a high standard and retains all the best architectural features of Irish rural pub fronts. Colourful window boxes and hanging basket arrangements were observed and many were admired, Bofey Quin's and Mac's Bar to mention but a few. Some central commercial buildings had grass and weeds growing out of their eave-chutes. It is good to note that you have commenced a campaign of repainting of many properties. The Medical Centre looks well and the footpath from here linking out to the Grotto is a fine facility. Well done to those who look after the well located GAA grounds and its associated activities.

Landscaping:

The high standard of landscaping in many of the areas mentioned in your submission is impressive, with the Grotto and surrounding areas on the Ballyvaughan Road being a highlight. The well maintained grass margins here with red painted seating and village pump at the Burren Way sign create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The hanging baskets at the bridge are spectacular and here the presentation of Richmond House and its mature grounds was admired. Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in individual areas such as the Ennis/Ennistymon Cross which overall combine to make Corofin look well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village has a wonderful range of wildlife habitats in its environs. Lough Inchiquin is a splendid amenity and is presented to a high standard with attractive seating and picnic table, clean car park and boat mooring facilities. The recent work on the weeding of shrubberies, and the general cleanup carried out by the committee members, are impressive. Perhaps the committee might consider approaching the school with a view to carrying out an audit of the wildlife of the area. This would be a good research project. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife information boards providing further interesting information points in the village.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally good and the village centre was substantially litter free. However, there was a small quantity of paper and a number of plastic bottles scattered on the ground at the car park and at the access road at Halla Naomh Phadraig. Nevertheless, your litter campaign, involving an anti-litter poster promotion, is obviously having a good effect.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to your school on achieving the Green Flag. Perhaps your committee could liaise with the school on further developments under this heading. The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns committees and local communities to get involved in projects to reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during cleanup events. Well done on your Cleanup Day involving the Green School and the celebration of the Green Flag award. The Bring Centre was clean and its surrounds well maintained.

Tidiness:

Again the disorganised signage and overhead wires are creating an untidy appearance in the village centre. Well done on the removal of the sewerage work signs and the attempted removal of graffiti from the street signs. Open spaces and flower beds were generally very well maintained, and the work of the committee on the laneways and cobblestones was admired. The derelict building at the entrance to the co-op detracts from the visual appearance of this area. Repainting of this building with an attractive colour scheme would hugely enhance this location and this refurbishment, when taken in conjunction with the existing attractive red and white cottage nearby, would further enhance this vista. The historic old workhouse beyond the school and its surroundings are in need of care and attention. This interesting building merits a historic information plaque and also needs refurbishment.

Residential Areas:

The village has a good number of estates and all were visited. Creag Bhriain is a well-designed scheme and integrates well with its surroundings. The Green was well manicured and contains newly planted, staked trees enclosed by a well constructed stone masonry wall. The Glebe development has matured well and new housing here has an attractive pastel colour scheme. The original house is a nicely conserved centrepiece and the original vegetation has been reinforced with substantial new planting. The green beech hedgerow here looked excellent. The fine stone wall has been breached in one area and is in need of repair. A well laid out housing scheme on Loch Inchiquin Road looks well and is maturing nicely. This scheme would benefit from the addition of a name sign. Elsewhere, many individual houses with colourful gardens were admired. Well done on these presentations.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are generally enclosed by some fine quality stone walls with mature trees and

hedgerows. The Ballyvaughan entrance is well maintained with good signage and neatly trimmed grass margins. Both the Ennis Road and the Court Road have an uneven approach to verge cutting. Some planting enhancement at the announcement name signs would create a more welcoming appearance. Your laneway cleanup program is working well and makes a substantial difference to the visual environment.

General Impression:

Corofin is an important village receiving many visitors because of its strategic location as an 'Anglers' Paradise'. The commitment of the newly formed Tidy Towns committee is proving a great asset and is already making a difference to the environs of the village. We wish you continued success in the years ahead and we are confident that you will continue to enhance the village's natural advantages.