

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Corofin** Ref: **64**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **254**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	50	30	31
Landscaping	50	35	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25	26
Litter Control	50	34	33
Tidiness	30	19	18
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>254</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Corofin to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the completed entry form. It was good to read that there is excellent local involvement in TidyTowns. However it was surprising to see that you are evidently not involved with the County Council or the LEADER Partnership as they were not mentioned specifically as supporting agencies. Good luck with the TUS application. A 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Corofin was not included. It is suggested that the committee prepares this using the ten adjudication categories as a framework. Thank you for the map. For next year it would be most helpful if all new projects for the year were numbered and keyed to the map. Do make sure to detail each project in the correct adjudication category.

### The Built Environment:

Vacant properties are one of the biggest issues in Corofin from a TidyTowns point of view. You should discuss this with the County Council if there are any derelict properties involved. The power hosing of vacant properties is a positive start. The National School in Newtown was really excellently presented and landscaped and the colour choice for the building and boundary wall is excellent. The very large derelict building nearby would benefit from simple low cost cosmetic treatment. The Heritage Centre as usual was appropriately presented – an old building with a great modern use. The P Crowley bar premises was especially admired and it was good to see sash windows surviving here. At the GAA the gates need to be painted and the large sign attached to the gate looked untidy. Dumping was evident at the clothes bank here. Nearby the playground was neat and tidy. The Grotto is a beautiful area that makes such excellent use of natural limestone. The campsite seemed busy when the area was visited and the main Corofin car park was adequately presented. The signage at the National Park Information Centre caught the eye. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role.

### **Landscaping:**

Work at The Bottles is commended and there is good improvement here. Along Main Street the twenty hanging baskets are most colourful and just the right number seem to have been provided. The Ennis / Ennistymon junction shows the results of good work here. Presumably the bare patches have been or will be reseeded. It is wise to keep your landscaping simple and do strive for year round colour and texture. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

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

The Corofin area is so lucky in that there are a number of good local walks available. We look forward to the results of the Heritage Walk research now underway. Hopefully this will result in a properly signed and interpreted walk. The uncut wildlife area at Lake Inchiquin was visited. The amenity area here is highly attractive and set in beautiful surroundings. The paint was peeling from at least one of the seats / tables and weed growth at kerbs was a serious problem here.

### **Litter Control:**

The map supplied indicates the Bottle Bank as being located on the road near The Glebe. Your adjudicator spent a lot of time trying to locate the facility in this area but without success. It was eventually located at the Texaco Service Station off the Ennis Road. Accuracy in regard to the map is so important. It would be helpful also if the map could mark all estates by name. Much litter was evident at the Bottle Bank and on Church Street. The car park at the back by the Library entrance was also heavily littered. Otherwise in the town centre litter control was reasonably good.

### **Tidiness:**

The clearing away of the dump at Lake Inchiquin is commended as is sign rationalisation at the Grotto. However signage clutter was still evident in some parts of Corofin. The spraying of weeds was noted in several places. This practice is not supportive of wildlife and should only be used when absolutely essential. It is not an ongoing solution to weed growth. In Newtown the grass at the derelict house needed to be cut and very bad weed growth was evident across the road. Your work on rubbish clearance from laneways is noted. On the Inchiquin road before the lake turn, weed growth at the gravel area in front of houses on the left needed attention.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your entry referred to ongoing conservation projects in the context of the schools etc but did not give any details. This category is about the annual reduction of the waste generated in Corofin. A good start is to carry out a simple survey of businesses and public buildings to see if waste is being reduced. The County Council may also be able to advise the committee. Recycling comes into this category also.

### **Residential Areas:**

Wall restoration at The Bottles has been noted. At Laghtagoona estate extensive works have evidently taken place. This is a very large and extremely well presented estate with young trees. Raised manholes are a possible safety issue here. Some attractive older cottages survive in Corofin and it is good to see that these are still inhabited. At Radharc na hEaglaise good use has been made of hanging baskets and window boxes. Road boundary walls were found to be in poor condition in Creagg Bhrain. Many well presented private houses in Corofin were admired. In the Newtown area some road boundary walls needed attention. The unnamed estate off the road to in the year Inchiquin uses a good colour palette that is visually effective.

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

Work on signs on the Ennis road has been noted from your entry form as has the cutting of hedges on approach roads presumably at the correct time of the year. The new wall on Shannon's Lane was examined and work was in progress on the Gort approach on the day of the visit. On the Killinaboy approach well maintained roadside verges were admired and high grass on the main road towards Inchiquin needed attention.

### **General Impression:**

In your second year in the competition you have continued your good work and good luck in the year ahead when we look forward to returning to Corofin.

