

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **269**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>269</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Firstly, thank you for your submission and giving details of work done and future work planned. You communicate well with the local community via a number of mediums. We are pleased to learn that Galway County Council is in the process of preparing a Local Area Plan for the village and surrounds and the Community Development Association are actively participating in the process.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church occupies a prominent position in the village and its surrounds are well presented and maintained. A number of commercial premises were exceptionally well presented. Paddy Burkes, Claires, Clarin Boutique, the Pharmacy and Sherrys were particularly good. This adjudicator liked the Ail Ruin Design Centre and took the liberty of entering it for a Shopfront award in the Special Awards section of the competition. The Clarinbridge cemetery was in immaculate condition and obviously well tended. The GAA clubhouse is also in good condition but it was thought that the weeds within the grounds could be controlled.

### **Landscaping:**

The grounds of the Borthers of Charity are well maintained. Rose bushes on approach road to the GAA pitch were noted. We visited the Village Green and noticed the recently planted bedding plants, wedding was in progress. The flowers around the cross were in full bloom however the grass was in need of cutting. We liked the plaques in the Village Green and the Church Hall to commemorate the contribution of the Reddington Family and the Christian Brothers to the development of the village; however we felt that the condition of the cross could be improved and the entrance gate painted. Your plans to erect a board with heritage information and area heritage map are welcomed and we look forward to seeing the final product next year. The flowerbeds and grass landscaping at the riverside is excellent.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Situated at the mouth of the Claren River, with Dunbulcan Bay, and Cowpark on your doorstep, you have more opportunities than most centres to score highly in this section. Your plans to develop walks and community facilities and encouraging wildlife in the Cowpark are good and hopefully when these will come to fruition in the coming years. We were interested to learn about the Oyster Farm run by the local national school, what an apt idea! We would be interested to hear more details on the Oyster Farm run by the National School next year.

**Litter Control:**

Some litter was present in the Village Green on inspection day. Apart from the aforementioned, no other litter was evident in the village. This is no mean achievement when one considers the amount of traffic in the village on a daily basis and the resultant litter generation.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It was a delight to see the green flag flying at the local National School. Unfortunately there was no Bring Bank facility at the Centra supermarket on adjudication day. We feel that this is an area where you have enormous potential to increase your marks. It may be helpful for you to consult the guidance document produced by the Department entitled "How to win the Race against Waste in your Community" to allow you to gain more marks in this section next year. The Waste Awareness Officer of Galway County Council may also be a good starting point. Consider engaging with the local schools and businesses, how about holding a waste awareness day or adopting the local Bring Bank? Maybe for next year you could work with the local school on a waste minimisation project? The schools involvement would also contribute to the green flag project.

**Tidiness:**

The Oyster Manor Hotel is still undergoing re-development and hoarding boards surround it. We have to mention the plethora of property, promotional and sale signs about the village. A seat on the Ballinamara Road approach is in need of maintenance or replacement.

**Residential Areas:**

Generally housing in the village and in the surrounding neighbourhood is excellent. We viewed residential buildings in the village centre and visited Stradbally North, Parklands and Bridgewood. We were impressed with the Brothers of Charity and Kilcuan, the immense areas of grass and parklands are excellently maintained and we acknowledge the amount of effort needed to sustain such high standards.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

We have to mention the traffic – crossing the road was difficult; we feel you should be in discussion with the Council regarding this. Maybe the local area plan will take this into consideration? This adjudicator thought that the pathway (back area) beside the burial ground of the religious sisters of charity could be better maintained as sticks, twigs and some litter was present along the path sides and a number of trees seemed to be vandalised. Generally, all approach roads seemed well maintained.

**General Impression:**

It was this adjudicator's first visit to Clarinbridge and we thoroughly enjoyed the adjudication. We await with anticipation the development plan for the area. You may like to know that we viewed your website on the internet and are delighted that the Community Development Association and the Tidy Town Committee is so active in the village. You are steadily raising your marks due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as an incentive for further action. Well done and best wishes for the 50th anniversary of the competition next year.