

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**  
County: **Galway** Mark: **276**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>276</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Clarinbridge to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. The entry received from you was extremely detailed and the map was excellent. The adjudicator would like to acknowledge the excellent working relationship that you appear to have developed with Galway County Council. Indeed locally you seem to have great communications with the Clarinbridge community and that is one of the keys to TidyTowns success. The adjudicator noted that you did not supply a 3 Year TidyTowns Action Plan for Clarinbridge and you might consider this for 2009 as a distinct document from the County Council Local Area Plan. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful. Traffic volumes is indeed a serious problem for Clarinbridge – are there any plans for a bye-pass? It was very encouraging to read of the strong business support that TidyTowns receives in the village and the links with the School are excellent.

### **The Built Environment:**

The adjudicator notes that you have followed up on the problem of the old Hotel and appreciates that at this stage there is little more that your Committee can do. The presentation of the Catholic Church was indeed impressive. The building and road boundary wall seemed to have been painted recently and the grounds were excellently presented. A fine stone building on the left hand side on the road to the GAA premises caught the eye as did other stone buildings that add character to Clarinbridge. The Stonebridge Interiors premises caught the adjudicator's attention for a number of reasons. The colour scheme here works well and the doors and windows are highlighted in a different colour. This was complimented by excellent graphics. There are also some attractive older shop-fronts in Clarinbridge and the JJ Sherry premises and Paddy Burke's are two good examples. The modern retail area including Centra and the Garden Centre was excellently presented and neat and tidy. At the GAA premises the main gate would be improved if painted.

**Landscaping:**

The landscaping on the two main approach roads was really excellent and the other smaller landscaped areas in the village were equally impressive including the triangle on the Oranmore road. Individuals had also made a great effort to provide hanging baskets or window boxes that looked very effective along the street. The CowPark 40 acre park project sounds really exciting and we look forward to seeing further progress on this concept next year. The adjudicator was really impressed by the presentation of the Village Green where the standard was exceptional. The large planted area around the base of the cross was most colourful and the surrounding grass areas extremely well maintained. The litter bin design here was admired – contemporary and appropriate for the setting. The new green entrance gate is a great improvement. The landscaping on the road to The Parklands was impressive and the lush green verges were complimented by fine trees. Along the long Cemetery wall the beautiful display of Roses was also admired. Some estates were also well landscaped and the long landscaped area on the left at the entrance to Caiseal Riada was extremely effective.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Clarinbridge is so lucky to have the river and your clean ups here are so important. The adjudicator was very interested in the Masswalk Boardwalk project as this has the potential to have a most positive impact on the ability of the community to enjoy the local waterside wildlife. We await further progress next year. Likewise the CowPark has further potential.

**Litter Control:**

The National School Litter Awareness project is an excellent concept and Clarinbridge is getting great support from the County Council with the twice weekly clean up visits that seem to be so successful. The adjudicator understands that there are plans to replace all litter bins and do make sure that you get the best bin design for the village. The Bring Bank at the back of Centra was visited. The idea of the segregation bins is excellent. It was clean and tidy. However the official signage needs to be erected and a fingerpost from the main road is also necessary. Some litter was noted by the Limestone wall on the Athenry road and on the Stradbally North road but apart from these locations litter control was good.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It is great that the Garden Centre has agreed to host the Composting Awareness Day and the Clothes Bank looked very neat and tidy. Do continue to add one or two new initiatives on waste minimisation each year and continue with projects where possible from previous years. Congratulations to the School on the work that they did for their Green Flag.

**Tidiness:**

Quite a number of advertising signs were noted on the Oranmore approach road that detracted a little from your excellent grass verges here. You have been working to have such signage removed. The list of works given to the Area Engineer is impressive but it was great to read of his most positive response to most items on your list. It is great to see you both working so well together. At the School the area over the entrance to the building needed to be painted.

**Residential Areas:**

The estates visited in Clarinbridge were indeed impressive. The presentation of The Parklands was probably the best that this adjudicator has seen anywhere in Ireland this year. The varied architectural designs used here for a start catches the eye. The grass areas and highly landscaped public and private areas were superbly presented. At the new estate opposite the Graveyard the excellent grass area on the left at the entrance impressed. Very good presentations also featured on Stradbally North road and it was good to see here that new boundary walls were of local grey Limestone.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main approach roads were excellently presented and the wide verges are obviously being cut on a regular basis. However the narrow verge on the right on the Oranmore approach did not appear to have been cut recently. Along the Athenry road the Limestone wall has some gaps that need to be repaired and the stone capping was missing in several places.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Clarinbridge. Your work for TidyTowns is well organised and your cooperation with Galway County Council is obviously most productive. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.

