

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **279**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	279

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the complete application form, decorated by the delightful streetscape as a base strip line. Thank you also for the annotated map which was very useful on the day of adjudication. Clarinbridge is a famous and much loved location on Galway's coastline. The Garden and Lifestyle Centre was very well presented and the use of landscape assets to good effect is applauded. We were struck by the number of flag poles which were bereft of flags. The Antique Shop displayed two and the Pilgrim Trust Three flagless polls. Applause to Paddy Burke who was flying no less than 5 flags adding colour and movement to his area.

The committee is urged to consider the creation of a three year five year plan. This should consist of your priority items for attention. Ideally identify the lead agency or your partner in each of these ventures; include a projected start date and an anticipated conclusion date. Such an exercise will concentrate the mind and will also help to ensure that that your plan is that and not merely an aspirational wish list.

The Built Environment:

There are many delightful individual structures within Clarinbridge while on other occasions it is the streetscape itself that is the main attraction. The Ailruin Clothes Shop was most elegant while the former RIC Barracks with its historic plaque was interesting. The fine Corinthian pillars of the Catholic Church were imposing in their setting. The small Church building in the grounds of the Irish Pilgrim Trust was of interest while the thatched cottage on Main Street was a delight. Stonebridge Interiors caught the eye. The small scale Post Office was well presented while Paddy Burke's famous Oyster Inn was appealing. The historic Reddington Monastery School (1840-1890) was very well presented and the information plaque added considerable to ones appreciation of it.

Landscaping:

The GAA's extensive grounds and premises looked well. In common it seems with every GAA grounds the gates were left gaping open. There was excellent planting at Kilcornan while the Village Green itself was full of interest; its seats, statuary and general layout being of a high order. The leisure area beside the river looked very well while the maturing tree on either side of the road at Ballynamanagh East were most attractive. The small, three-arched bridge was a delight straddling the Clarinbridge River. The Cemetery was neat and orderly and the gates in gold and black were most attractive. The splendid and extensive forest on the Limerick side was most appealing. The extensive Cow-park project is awaited with great interest and will undoubtedly add considerable to the appeal of Clarinbridge when it is completed. If the Mass walk boardwalk project can also be achieved then certainly Clarinbridge will have a great deal to offer cyclists, walkers and those with even a passing interest in environmental matters.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The project outlined above will have a material beneficial impact on the wildlife and natural amenities of the area and their progress is eagerly awaited. Your approach to the maintenance of grassed areas and to the maintenance of the river is measured, suitable and appropriate. The area is ideally suited to a study of sea birds and this aspect might with advantage be the subject of a suitable sited information panel.

Litter Control:

Litter bins general were of suitable design and appropriately located. Litter management generally throughout the centre was of an exceptional and improving nature. Quality litter bins were noted in Barracks Street and also outside the GAA grounds. However this latter was full and needed servicing. The community wide involvement in periodic foreshore clean-up and the removal of dumped waste from there is a commendable and, sadly it is proving to be a necessary ongoing task. The individual daily volunteering and your council worker continue to do a good job and the Clarinbridge is the benefit of their collective activities.

Waste Minimisation:

The segregation of waste following your own clean-up operations is an excellent way to under score the value and need for recycling material as much as possible. It is a worthwhile idea to stage an information evening at which the virtues of home composting and the general ethos of reduction of usage of scarce resources and energy, reusing material and items where appropriate and recycling material wherever possible can be discussed. These events have a considerable benefit in amending the mindset of people to their individual economic advantage and an overall benefit to the community at large. The new Clothing Recycling Unit at the GAA Club was noted and was being well maintained.

Tidiness:

Many aspects fall to be considered under this catch-all category. Unsightly plastic and commercial signs, especially "temporary" signs on approach roads for example. Barracks Street was very well swept and looked attractive while there was a substantial amount of spoil at the base of walls on the Galway Road approach. Weeds at the base of walls and especially between the road and paths detracted more than somewhat from an overall good impression. The areas beside commercial premises, when visible from the road to those passing by need attention in a number of locations.

Residential Areas:

The housing stock of the town was largely well presented. It is important, wherever possible that the town's core continue to be used as residents and not exclusively for commercial activities. Redington Wood Luxury houses looked very well while Kilcornan Estate was very well laid out although some street lamps are showing signs of rusting. Ridgewood off the Limerick Road was an excellent development while Parklands featured many excellent individual gardens and suitable tree. A slightly jarring note was the extent of loose shale outside boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The 'Welcome to Clarinbridge, Home to the Oyster' sign in stone was excellent sign, striking just the right balance of gravitas and promotion. The Speed limit signs, almost without exception all needed to be washed as did especially their supporting poles. Roads and pathways were well swept in most cases although again there was some example of spoil at the base of boundary walls. The Limerick Road was similarly equipped with the excellent name plate and in this case was well swept and neat.

General Impression:

Clarinbridge is a delightful location with many items of historic interest which are suitably presented. It is carving out for itself a particular niche in the ecological world. It has many attributes and potentially many

suitable destination and experiences to offer in this regard.

All those involved in the on-going presentation of this splendid Atlantic-side town are applauded for their efforts and wished well in the years to come.