

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **282**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	34	35
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	279	282

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks to Clarinbridge for your very clearly presented application form and map. It was most useful that you marked the locations of your projects here as this greatly facilitates the adjudicator in seeing what changes have been made since last year. Six seems like a small number for your committee – have you tried recently to recruit additional members? As mentioned in last year's report you should consider preparing a three-year plan. See the TidyTowns handbook for more information on what this entails but such a strategic approach would focus your minds on a vision for Clarinbridge and what you can hope to achieve.

The Built Environment:

Well done on carefully maintaining the stone cross in the village green – a most worthwhile endeavour. The Main st., although very busy with traffic, was looking very well on adjudication day. Kelly's has a simple but effective shop front. The RC church is looking extremely well and its grounds were spotless (although out of season Christmas decorations should be taken down). Paddy Burkes is a fantastic looking pub. Claire's Tea Rooms looks very well while the neighbouring commercial development with Centra is very attractive.

Landscaping:

Good work on cleaning up the dangerous bend bearing in mind the safety considerations. The lovely village green is a fantastic spot and is beautifully maintained. The old horse cart is a nice heritage feature. The new trees on the bridge (and elsewhere in the town) were admired and are great for year round impact. The pair of thatched cottages are immaculately presented with lovely colourful flower displays.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The best option for you under this category, particularly given the range of natural resources present in the

town, is to prepare a wildlife plan. This would first identify the habitats of value and green spaces with wildlife potential. It would list the various species of flora and fauna while recommending specific actions that could be undertaken to enhance the space for nature. Galway bay is a Special Protection Area (SPA) and so is among the most important sites in Ireland for bird conservation. The river, woodlands and shore are all important habitats.

Litter Control:

It is good that you participate in the Annual Spring Clean event in April. How do you communicate the importance of litter control to school children and the wider community? A sack of rubbish was sadly dumped behind the wall at the village green. Litter control in general however is to a very high standard – well done!

Waste Minimisation:

It is wonderful that Scoil Mhuire has a Green Flag – this is an excellent achievement under this heading. How is the message of waste minimisation extended to the wider community and local business? What measures can be undertaken to avoid sending waste to landfill e.g. by encouraging home composting; discouraging junk mail; or encouraging the use of reusable coffee mugs and water bottles? There are many possible initiatives but you will need to work closely with businesses and residents on this.

Tidiness:

The town centre is generally very tidy with good surfacing and signage. Fly-posting is a problem, especially on approach roads, creating an untidy first impression. Crossing the road is a difficult task during rush hour! Have you considered installing traffic calming measures or pedestrian crossings? Christmas decorations on Paluah's should be taken down. A discarded pole at the river near Centra (along with some litter) should be tidied away. Bins and other street furniture are in good working order.

Residential Areas:

Do estates have residents associations? How do you communicate with residents groups? Are there estates that do not get involved and how could this be tackled? The new footpath is a great addition to your town and will encourage more walking (hopefully!). The old RIC barracks is beautifully reincarnated as town houses. Private homes were generally presented to a very high standard. The estate on the church road has no name – although the lovely roses here were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Galway was cluttered with fly-posting signage while verges were well maintained. The hoarding to the front of the derelict hotel on the Limerick road is an unfortunate eye sore – are you working with Galway county council on addressing this area? The laneway to the Sisters of Charity cemetery is littered and untidy (broken walls and piles of dead vegetation). The main cemetery is extremely well kept.

General Impression:

Clarinbridge is a lovely town with a rich natural heritage. It is suggested that you make the most of this by working on a three-year plan. The town looked great on adjudication day – well done!