

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **286**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2011**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2010	Mark Awarded 2011
Overall Development Approach	50	36	37
The Built Environment	50	40	40
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Litter Control	50	35	35
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	19	19
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	282	286

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator welcomes you to the 2011 TidyTowns competition. Your participation is important to the TidyTowns movement. Thank you for the filled up entry form, map and three year plan. I note you have a core group of eight members, and you are fortunate to have this huge group to call on for specialised information. I like your comments that you are going in the direction that the community want as well as very regular committee meetings. Good support is available from the county council and the others listed, and the communication is good with your community. The contact with the school is very worthwhile and will be beneficial in the long run. We are pleased to learn that the competition brings the community together where friends are made, we applaud the involvement of the youngest and the oldest, and I saw, first hand, a lady with a walking stick picking up papers in the village green one morning. The many festivals in Clarinbridge bring the people together and this creates a pride of place attitude. All of this means you have a good approach to the competition.

The Built Environment:

The built environment is interesting in this busy village where there is a mix of old and new shops that were doing good business. The traditional shop fronts are pretty, but the newer style units are well planned and blend in nicely to the village. Passing along the main road the impressive Paddy Burkes bar is eye-catching with the great traditional thatched roof and across the road the distinctive church is beautifully presented. Other notable features are the village green, the old RIC barracks which was being restored and then there is the parish hall that was once Redington school 1840 – and good to see this building now has a new lease of life. The youth are well catered for with the fine pavilion at the GAA pitch

Landscaping:

There is a natural landscape to the village that require little intervention such as the village green with the great mature trees and the sturdy stone wall around it, and of course there are other stretches of spectacular stone walls that have their own particular charm. There are other great scenes notable from the bridge down at the back of Paddy Bourkes. But I could see the "footprints" of an enthusiastic and imaginative people all over the village with lovely beds of flowers and shrubs at intervals.

Ballynamanagh road was great with neat grass margins containing new trees.

The village green was interesting with the Redington memorial as the centre piece adorned with good flowers and shrubs. I loved the traditional water pump, but felt it could look even better painted black and the historic water trough is a beauty. An anvil reminded us of a bygone day, and nearby there was the stone surrounded barbecue which is need of attention and was being used as a litter bin. Interesting historical information is contained on small plaques in the grounds, and good information about Clarinbridge is contained in the heritage sign in the green and then there is the attractive community notice board in the church grounds. A stroll down the green by the river at the back of Paddy Bourkes reveals some great views in a relaxed atmosphere.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a haven for wildlife from the river banks, stone walls, trees and the restricted farm practices. It is educational to find that there is information contained at Clarinbridge TidyTowns.com. It is pleasing to find that swans have returned to the bay after an absence of a few years. The annual nature walks bring us into contact with the flora and fauna of the area.

Litter Control:

You are paying good attention to the control of litter as outlined in your entry form. There is great spirit shown when the people go out on Thursday nights to pick up litter. I inspected the litter bins around the town and all were presented neat and tidy. From my visit to the town I could see that there is good control of the litter. There was some litter in the green and some more dumped in the barbeque unit.

Waste Minimisation:

You are taking a number of positive steps in the management of the waste with the likes of the battery recycling project, annual hazardous waste collection, distribution of reusable bags and especially co-ordinating and advertising composting demonstrations in the garden centre. I visited the recycling centre at the back of Centra that contains 6 ordinary bins and two enable Ireland clothes bins, and the area was in a disappointing state with one bin full to the top, cartons were thrown there and worst of all somebody dumped an old leather golf bag there. I noticed CCTV cameras are advertised as being there
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Tidiness:

The town was tidy for the most part. The entrance from Gort is always admired with the stone walls and the impressive entrance to the brothers of charity place, but this area is now in a sorry state with the faded hoarding along by the left side of the road, and this is most unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

There are splendid houses all around the village with a few old beauties near the old RIC barracks. There is a small estate up near the GAA pitch that could have a name plate put in place. Parklands estate is splendid with all those stone walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road through the village was in good condition with a smooth surface. Down by Parklands the road was quite bumpy, and this was also the case going down to industrial buildings. The fine presentation of the roadsides raises the expectation of the tourist and then the village "speaks for itself"

General Impression:

You are making a determined attempt to present Clarinbridge at its best in all the categories of the competition.

