

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Manorhamilton** Ref: **1824**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **221**
Category: **C** Date(s): **29/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	34	36
The Built Environment	50	28	30
Landscaping	50	25	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16	17
Litter Control	50	23	24
Tidiness	30	16	18
Waste Minimisation	20	9	11
Residential Areas	40	23	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	208	221

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Manorhamilton to the 2012 TidyTowns Competition and thank you for your very detailed map, pictures and comprehensive entry form. It is very impressive that you have such a large membership of your committee. You have done some great work and the long-term plan should really help focus and measure your efforts and achievements. You may want to consider having 2 youth reps on your committee as with the large number of schools in your town.

The TidyTown display and posters were admired on the main street in the S McMorrow building. You have praised your Tus workers - they have done some great work as has the whole committee and community.

The Built Environment:

Your adjudicator was truly impressed with the number of buildings that have been revamped and painted this year – over 20 – too many to list so well done to them all and this has really helped you gain marks in this category. This is a tremendous effort. The wonderful traditional three-story buildings on the main street indicate the wealth of the community when first built in the 19th century. The bi-lingual signs of the library and Farrell's shop were admired, as were the bi-lingual blue street names. There were many features on buildings of the main street that were wonderful to see in situ and in such good condition such as the embossed shield on the Gilberts building; the intricate lovely wrought iron balconies on the building opposite and the engraved glass of the fanlight of the sculpture building saying 'Mary Sheenan' was licensed to sell tobacco. AIB and the Maestro Restaurant looked very well. The Glens centre is a lovely old building – the downstairs windows need some attention but please do not replace in style of the upstairs windows. Railings here looked good but do watchout for excessive signage on the front of this building. The new SuperValu building and planters looked very good - a temporary fence at the entrance could be removed.

The striking new extension to the Community Hospital is a great designed building – with no sign – your adjudicator had to ask who occupied the building!

The famine graveyard and Paupers stone were a poignant reminder of the drastic effects of the famine across Leitrim. At the top of Church Lane one of the sewer ventilation pipes was in good condition but could do with some painting.

Larger commercial premises blend in well in the town centre. Both garages appeared quite neat and it was good to see the Defribulator at the Mace garage. Killnasett Co-operative was neat and tidy but the hard landscaping and fencing at the front made it appear very harsh. The back of this premises has some nice ivy growing along the road-side fencing softening the appearance somewhat. Merenda premises looked good though care could be taken to keep pallets etc tidy at the end of the yard. The Mirror Factory here has some nice shrubbery and gravel beds here that really made this commercial area look cared for and tidy. The courthouse windows were half-boarded – what are the plans here? The newly painted Bee Park gates were admired - some works no doubt are planned for the area inside and the benches need to be replaced.

Landscaping:

The floral displays throughout Manorhamilton are lovely – well done to all concerned. Homes and businesses have mirrored this effort with many lovely window boxes. The hanging baskets along Main Street look particularly well as do the planters by the Castle area. Here, your adjudicator liked the small planters that fitted into the alcoves on the walls, and the planted half barrels that lifted this large forecourt area. You have some great partners and the work of Loughan prison is excellent. Is the compost they supply home-made? If so it would also help you gain marks in the waste minimization category of the competition. Minor detail – possibly remove hanging baskets that not planted (eg. At Casino).

Moving around Manorhamilton, you are struck by the number of great mature trees especially around the New Line area. As a community you have worked hard to add to this and this works well, such as at the new landscaping on Station Road, New line, rowans on Cream Road, silver birch at the Garda station and the trees and shrubs planted at the beds by the castle. This should be highly commended. The Tidy Towns competition is pushing towards provision of year-round structure in its planting schemes. Some new trees have not taken in places, possibly due to lack of water essential in their first few years before establishing a good root system. Trees by the bottle banks need stays removed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was very good to read that you have commissioned a biodiversity audit for Manorhamilton. Once you know what wildlife you have you can then make the appropriate recommendations to raise awareness and enhance of the wildlife and special habitats of Manorhamilton. Your adjudicator would like to recommend the Heritage Council publication 'Conserving and Enhancing wildlife in Towns and Villages' www.heritagecouncil.ie which gives great advice on simple but effective actions. The appointment of a wildlife officer is another excellent decision to help organise events and activities to 'bring alive' and enthuse people of their local wildlife.

Your proposed riverwalk should lead to a good feature through the town and even a short section of this be a perfect venue to host a bat walk. Once people learn that one pipistrelle bat can eat 3000 midges in one night, they are often more understanding of some of our rarest and protected mammals.

Elasto premises were well presented and the case studies submitted will help you gain marks in the Waste Minimisation section. But care should be taken for the use of weedkiller over a large area to control grass growth at the base of the fencing – strimming would be better and would not damage the environment.

Litter Control:

The new anti-litter signs at the entrances to the town were admired. Do you have a problem with littering from cars? Was this identified as part of your litter audit? No such road-side littering was noted in Manorhamilton on the day of your adjudicator's visit. Street bins were fully serviced.

The recycling banks were nicely spaced but the end brown glass bank is too close to the tree behind it. Since there are already 3 other brown glass recycling banks here, could this be removed? At the time of visit there was a bag of rubbish dumped here and 2 brown cardboard boxes – both of which looked freshly dumped and there was no evidence of long-term litter here. There was also some litter on the pavement down to the hand-ball alley so this should be added to litter-picking routes. The placing of a load of gravel here is not conducive to maintaining this area tidy and indeed litter was spread around this area. This was one of the few litter black spots noticed.

Some cigarette butts were noticed outside some public premises eg. Connolly's Bar which attracted the

adjudicator due to its nice sign. Some fresh litter was also noted on the excellently named Teapot Lane though no one was offering any here on the wet day of your adjudicator's' visit!

Tidiness:

All the road and street signs throughout Manorhamilton were clean and bright and easily read. The removal of overhead wires on the Enniskillen road has also made a difference.

Double parking to get cash from the Bank of Ireland seems to be an issue at this junction. You could remove the Special Olympics sign re Gambia on the Sligo road. At the entrance to Lurganboy there are 2 sets of poles with no signs on them. Opposite the Old Orchard on Creamery Road were warning signs for roadworks at a site that was not in use. Old wooden signs for the famine graveyard, in the very well-maintained grounds of the hospital, could not be read.

The new hoarding looked well on church lane – though there seem to be a great number of warning signs erected again! There were two wooden frames for some sort of sign at the green box by the castle . These frames are no longer in use.

Waste Minimisation:

You have done some very good work with the appointment of a waste management office to help with this category. Carrying out a waste audit is important and the case studies enclosed are great examples - Elasto Metall Ireland; Mace Store and Masterson primary school. They show measurable results and direct benefits gained here. You could consider some sample domestic waste audits. Also, you could consider how TidyTown green waste may be converted to compost locally.

Residential Areas:

Throughout Manorhamilton there are nicely tended homes whether it is in estates or on main roads. No 3 Boley Hill stood out for lovely wooden sash windows and the red door. As a community you have worked hard to integrate the large number of new estates that sprang up in the last years of the boom. There were some nicely tended homes on Clooneen on the Sligo Road with a wide-mix of architectural designs here. Your adjudicator followed the roundabout sign into Glenwood estate expecting to encounter a business park and found an immaculately presented domestic estate.

Your adjudicator was amazed with the number of homes on Clooneen Park as the narrow entrance implied a small number of homes. Most here had very well-tended front gardens. Some of the communal areas showed some wet grasslands with rushes and flag irises.

McDermott Terrace had some great landscaping and a lovely park.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Manhole covers on the road at Larkfield Manor protruded quite high. The concrete road up to the hospital was in a poor state. Are there any plans for the site next to Mace on Sligo Road with the trailer left here? Passing down the Commons, your adjudicator was surprised how tidy most of these back yards appeared—well done.

General Impression:

Though it was not so long ago since your adjudicator came to the town, it really felt as if major changes for the better has been taken.

Good luck with all your projects for 2012 when we look forward to returning.