

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dualla** Ref: **639**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **233**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	50	34	35
Landscaping	50	30	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15	15
Litter Control	50	37	38
Tidiness	30	17	17
Waste Minimisation	20	5	5
Residential Areas	40	26	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	229	233

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of ten members and other volunteers are to be commended on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. You are obviously hard working and enthusiastic and you have made links with Leader and have good support in the community. As suggested last year we advise the preparation of a very simple three year Tidy Towns Plan that will guide your work over the period 2012 – 2014. Also, the application should be more fully completed to enable the adjudicator to gain an impression of the place.

The Built Environment:

The Grotto, the Church and the Cemetery were fine but the car park surface needs repair. The new school was fine and we presume that tree planting is planned for this winter. Tír na nÓg guest house had a nice stone entrance and was in good condition. The Sports field and the walkway looked well. Now that the Community Centre has reverted back to the Community, this listed building is well painted. The Olde Forge Pub was clean, the corner could do with a feature.

Landscaping:

We liked your idea of a natural setting for the village signs on the approach rather than bedding plants. The trees in containers would be better if planted in the ground. Weeds were noted in the containers and bindweed is taking control in the shrubs. Attractive Roses and Rhododendrons were noted at the Horse and Hound. There is an opportunity for a feature planting at the sportsfield.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noted the walk about at the sportsfield. Appreciating your local wildlife resources is vital in order to

achieve under this category. In this regard researching and raising awareness is more important than 'doing' at the early stages. Biodiversity is under threat globally and sadly Ireland is a part of this trend. Learn why this is important and discover the areas designated for conservation close to you at www.npws.ie or www.noticenature.ie. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, stream, woodlands and wetlands. Some or all of these are likely to be present in your town and they should be mapped. Learn how their quality can be enhanced through careful management. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the school or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks.

Litter Control:

Are you involved in The National Spring Clean. It is a great event and a wonderful focal point to kick-start the year's activities. You do not state how regularly you carry out litter patrols at other times. Do also give full details of your promotion initiatives particularly regarding the schools. Litter was seen at the base of the Bring Bank containers opposite the Church.

Tidiness:

There were weeds around the Grotto and at the base of the wall. An empty iron frame should be removed and the black gates need a touch-up. The plant container and iron gate at the Horse and Hound need painting. The lamp and lamp post need cleaning and the diesel pump repaired. The County Council installation opposite Tír na nÓg needs screening; a hedge would be appropriate.

Waste Minimisation:

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero waste society. Your town can play its part by first looking at the volume of waste that is generated. Contact your waste contractors who can help with this. Try to find out what is being thrown away and armed with this information you can start to think about how waste can be reduced. Examine the waste pyramid and note that recycling is only the fourth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature. Is the school involved in the green flag programme?

Residential Areas:

Lios Dubhaile estate is lovely with a good entrance, the trees and grass are well maintained and no weeds or litter were present. We noted the new trees at the entrance, please ensure that vegetation for approximately one metre at the base is controlled until the trees establish. Wall plants would help screen the rear of the low boundary wall at the entrance. The well painted and planted pump was noted. There is scope to add the estate name to the plinth. The houses and gardens opposite were in good condition. The Rath Clough estate had good trees. The grass needs trimming at the name stone entrance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There were no signs to Dualla from the main surrounding roads. Perhaps you could talk to the local authority for provision of same. On the Cashel Road just after the village the road boundary wall needs painting. The vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the village sign and other road signs needs to be trimmed.

General Impression:

We note the improvements made to the Community Centre and your continued vigilance in litter control since your application last year. Well done and we look forward to your entry in 2013