

# Tidy Towns Competition 2013

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Naas** Ref: **382**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **295**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **09/07/2013**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2013</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	38	40
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	40	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	36	38
Litter Control	50	34	34
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	12
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	33	34
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>295</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Naas is welcomed to the Tidy Town's competition for 2013. Thank you for your entry, maps, and supporting documentation. Reading from your entry your group are focussed on achieving the objectives you have set out as part of your five year plan. Your plan has now ended date wise but you still have work to do on the ground. You have also many new objectives planned awaiting a new three/five year plan, in this you are wished well. You have a good working committee of twelve and have a good arrangement where you work as a group and in sections. For an area this size wide community involvement is essential. This is evident in your case as you welcome new members to the town to join your group and engage with all the relevant agencies, businesses and any member of the community that can support and assist you achieve your objectives. The work you have done in the town is easily recognisable as one enters for the first time after an absence of three years. Your communication methods of social media as well as through newspapers are commended, this way everyone will receive your communication and this is important in keeping volunteers on board.

### The Built Environment:

Many buildings throughout the Town have benefitted from your assistance. Upgrading buildings through painting if needed or treating of what is all too common in most towns and villages visited, premises and houses no longer lived in for one reason or another. This area has put a greater strain on Tidy Towns Groups with more and more problems areas appearing. The adjudicator could see on visiting the Town that your group are coping very well with any issues which have occurred. The presentation of the Built Environment was indeed very good. The many murals noted have worked well to address unattended sites. The mural across from Murtaghs - a fine impressive building on the corner - and mural at the Harbour definitely caught the eye. Main Street is a street of fine buildings and colourful displays of hanging baskets, nice raised containers of flowers, some displays a little overdone. Too much can sometimes distract from an attractive building. Buildings visited and admired were the Town Hall which is towering over the street in all its splendour. The Court House is state of the art. The banks as usual looked splendid. Kavanaghs Public House, the Red Door and the Five Lamps, all different buildings in their own right adding great charm and splendour to the streetscape. Moving out of town Naas allotments were noted. Jigginstown was also visited and the restoration work noted. The modern glass building housing the County Council was also admired as was the building behind with the clock tower, a building from a different era. The Memorial garden in this area was admired and it is indeed a great reminder of friends and colleagues past but not forgotten. The canal harbour, a lovely amenity, was admired. The Library with nice sculptors to the fore

looked splendid, pity about the building nearby which in time it is hoped will be addressed. One has to look at the positive and not let the negative take from it. Naas Fire Station with the unusual sculpture of bell shapes was admired surround by nice landscaping that had many butterflies visiting which was a joy.

### **Landscaping:**

The Failte go Naas bed was the adjudicators first noted piece of landscaping and this was indeed a nice start. The many colourful displays throughout the town from beds of summer bedding to beds of all year round colours were obvious. Craddockstown immediately comes to mind here. The many three tier planters hanging baskets and raised containers that decorated the buildings and streets were splendid with good colour themes which show that good planning was used in their preparation. As stated earlier the planting at the fire station behind the sculptor was drawing a lot of visitors and indicates how important this type of planting is.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

As stated in your entry there are many suitable locations for wildlife habitats around the Town. The area also has an abundance of areas for walkers to enjoy nature as they walk. Having visited the town on a beautiful sunny evening the adjudicator also sampled some of the lovely amenities available around. The canal harbour was the first stop and much admired with information on local wildlife. There was lovely seating to help the wanderer sit and enjoy this lovely area. Ballycane wildlife area was also visited but the adjudicator felt this area needed attention, wire paling surrounding the green area was in need of attention; also the river here seemed almost grown over. Craddockstown was the next stop and this offered everything to the visitor. It was so calming to watch the ducks and swans on the river in this lovely haven for wildlife. The many mature trees and hedging offer more happy nesting places for wildlife. The wetlands and lakes are another wonderful example of natural habitats.

### **Litter Control:**

For a Town of this size the area can be proud of its policy on combatting litter. Litter is not too major a problem as only a small amount of fresh litter was noted and this was where there is a lot of footfall. From your entry it is noted that you have regular clean ups and litter picks. These clean ups involve the entire community and Kildare County Council and this is seen in the result today. You are getting the message of awareness out there in the community and it is working. Keep up the good work. Areas where some litter was noted was at Ballycane wildlife area and at the harbour. Some litter was also observed in Main Street.

### **Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:**

This category has caused difficulty for many groups in the past where they were thinking solely about recycling, this area is still as important as ever but also focus on reducing the amount of waste produced is needed. Since the down turn in the economy people have become more focussed on saving and that is across the board on energy, transport and all types of waste. The surveys which you have undertaken along with the school will benefit you greatly here. From your entry your understanding of the whole area is clear. The reuse of books, clothes and other suitable items which can provide necessary funds for the community and also reduce waste are very popular with many groups. Swap shops are also very popular. The list is endless and one that you as a committee could gain valuable marks in the competition in the future.

### **Tidiness:**

The Town was generally tidy but some areas of untidiness were noted such as weed growth and signage, nothing too major for your strong committee to address. The areas with weed growth were along Canal Harbour, Church Lane and at Ballycane. There were some directional signs that need cleaning and there were some poles that needed to be removed, one was at Ballycane a rusty sign pole another one outside Scruples on main street. There were also some poles that just needed to be straightened. Throughout the town most signage was well presented and the use of the Irish language is applauded with lovely signage for historical sites. The attractive far outweighed the unattractive ones. The Bring Banks were tidy on day of adjudication.

### **Residential Areas:**

Best kept garden and estates competition is a good way of assisting people to maintain their own residences and gardens which in turn make their town a nicer place to live in and visit. It also gives the community a sense of pride in their own areas. Well done to your committee for organising these competitions each year, all this takes time but it is a valuable worthwhile exercise that helps get work done for the Tidy Towns competition. Naas like most towns has spread outwards and obtained a vast amount of development. Thankfully there are no real unsightly unfinished estates causing problems. All estates that were visited had all well maintained gardens, green areas, well-presented entrances and tree lined roads. The older part of the town also has many housing estates. There are many different houses throughout but each one in their own way has that special character that all together makes up the splendid streetscapes of the town.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As mentioned in the previous category the town has grown in size which means so too has the approach roads into the town. The roads were all well-presented from roundabouts for which you are fortunate to having secured some sponsorship and hope to receive more for the remaining roundabouts to the neatly maintained

grass verges. Re surfacing of roads has also improved the approach to the town and the town centre.

**General Impression:**

Naas Tidy Towns group is certainly working well to progress the town forward. The number of projects that the group have assisted with are too numerous to mention but the work has been noted. You have done good work for this year's competition. You are wished well with all future developments. Thanks for your participation in the competition.