

Tidy Towns Competition 2010

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockraha** Ref: **791**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2010**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009	Mark Awarded 2010
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	32	33
Landscaping	50	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	22
Litter Control	50	30	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7	9
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	30	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	235	238

Overall Development Approach:

Knockraha is welcome to the 2010 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which includes your five year plan, we wish you every success in its implementation. We note the committee is made up of a core group of twelve people and that you have another ten extra helpers who take responsibility for their own areas, this is an ideal structure to your committee; we note also that you work with the local schools and other bodies in the care and management of Knockraha. Well done on your success over the last three years.

The Built Environment:

The Community Centre is beautifully presented, having been freshly painted, the footpath outside is well surfaced with attractively maintained bollards. The school located across from the Community Centre looks particularly well also and the Silver Birch trees here are maturing nicely, there is an excellent presentation to the old school house also. O'Donohoes Bar appears to have been freshly painted and the Church of St. Mary, together with its grounds, enjoys good maintenance. Well done on the installation of information panels giving local and historical details. Good luck with your plans for the Community Hall to make better use of the space.

Landscaping:

Landscaping at the cemetery and St. Cluain's Well is well designed and maintained and we note your work with Coillte regarding the development of an amenity area near the well in the forestry and wish you every success with this development. The school grounds are quite neat. A large green open space in one residential area looks quite attractive but would benefit from further landscaping, the young trees there are little more than saplings. Flower displays around the village are colourful and profuse and were lovely to see on an overcast day. We wish the school garden project every success. Be mindful of the need to plant for

seasonal interest and, where possible, to plant native species to support and attract wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have rightly identified the forestry / Holy Well area as your biggest natural amenity where wildlife is left undisturbed; we applaud your plan to undertake a wildlife survey and to communicate the results on information panels, leaflets, etc to the broader community. It is good to note that you are working with Coillte on this project and you are keen to see your own ideas regarding the development of a pathway through the woods as a further amenity; we look forward to visits in future years to chart your progress in this regard. Is the Riverstown F.C. at Knockraha Park within your TidyTowns boundary? If so, it can be included in future adjudications.

Litter Control:

A significant amount of take-away litter and soft drinks cans were noted both sides of the road just before the speed limit sign, this area is quite a distance from the village centre and the adjudicator is not sure whether it falls within your TidyTowns boundaries, however your participation in the An Taisce Anti-Litter Campaign together with the County Council Litter Free Roadside Competition indicates that you would have the area included in your litter patrols. We note your litter pickups every Saturday during the winter months and on Friday evenings during the summer; well done on your arrangement with Cork County Council for the collection of litter pickups; well done also on your visits to school to give litter awareness talks, your Poster Competition is an excellent idea. Your negotiations with your Council regarding the installation of cameras for offenders is interesting and hopefully it will help resolve the dumping problem. No doubt litter collected is segregated for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

A big Thank You to the local schoolchildren who have been recycling mobile phones and batteries and congratulations on their Green Flag status, this is a fine achievement. Your use of recycling facilities in Glanmire is noted and cognisance has been taken of the environmental review and action plan. Your proposed recycling fashion show sounds like a fun idea and hopefully you will be successful in the encouragement of business interests to install suitable bins.

Tidiness:

A wire and post fence on top of an old stone wall on one entrance to the village could be replanted or removed and in fact the wall itself is a combination of stone and earth and if visibility is an issue then the fencing might simply be replaced and the wall refurbished. The overhead service cables/wirescape in the village centre looks quite bad, no doubt representations have been made to the relevant bodies to have the cables ducted. Stretches of kerb were marred by weediness, it is important to keep an eye on this as it does generate an untidy impression. Well done on the good treatment to a derelict premises. A service pole at the church is quite unsightly. We note from your submission your Good Friday major cleanup to kerbs and your regular Friday cleanups since. Hopefully when the village is being supplied with the new sewerage scheme in 2011 the cables will be ducted then.

Residential Areas:

It is good to note that new residents in new estates are managing their own areas, no doubt some will become involved in the wider TidyTowns effort. Residential developments looked beautiful on the day of adjudication and Ard Abhann was particularly admired. A number of low roofs need improvement and one or two of the new infill houses are beginning to look a little weather-stained and may need to be cleaned/painted for next year. Your plan to provide signage for estates is noted. Hopefully new developments will also mean new amenity and play areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signposting to the Kilquane Cemetery and the Holy Well is good; most items of street furniture look well. Perhaps field gates could now be included in a themed colour scheme. The banks located behind your unusual namestone might be planted with a combination of ground cover and other plants. A stone wall located beside a speed limit sign might need to be refurbished at some stage in the future. Some stretches of road edge are quite damaged to their surface, however this may be addressed in 2011 with the proposed sewerage scheme. Do try to maintain grassed verges inside your nameplates neatly trimmed with straightened roadside during the summer season.

General Impression:

Thank you for your additional notes regarding the collapse of the stone ditch near the Forge and the collapse of the Knockraha Liscannor Stone having been hit by the vehicle, it is acknowledged that work is in progress on both issues to redress the problem and marks have not been lost as a result. Your representation to the

owner of the unoccupied house in the village as well as a local pub owner regarding cigarette ends are appropriate and hopefully will be fruitful. Knockraha is a lovely village set in scenic countryside and is being nicely presented and maintained and we look forward to many more visits.