

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappawhite** Ref: **635**  
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **267**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	50	35	36
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21	21
Litter Control	50	36	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8	8
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	30	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>267</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Cappawhite is most welcome to the 2011 TidyTowns competition – failte ar ais! Many thanks for your application form and plan. This plan seems to have covered the years 2008 to 2010 and so it would appear that the new plan is needed to reboot your activities. Such a plan would identify a vision for your town for the next three-year period. It should be ambitious but realistic. Then look at the various headings of the contest and decide what actions need to be completed under each one to help you achieve your vision. Larger tasks could be broken down into manageable projects. Seek to develop alliances and involve as many people and outside agencies as possible. Update the plan at the end of the year to show what has been done but do not be tempted to rewrite it. Acknowledge those areas where you have been less successful and learn from the experience. Consult the TidyTowns Handbook for much useful information and guidance is contained. You have 12 on your committee, which is a good number for a village of your size. Are you continually trying to attract new members? It is important to always have your door open to new involvement, and let people know that this is so. You are engaged with a range of outside bodies including South Tipperary County Council and others. This is good and you should continually be trying to form new liaisons with additional groups, for example sporting our business interests. It is acknowledged that the recession has hit you hard but take heart in the fact that the whole country is suffering a similar fate and that these things do not last forever. We all must simply make do with what we have. Indeed recessions can be good for slowing us down and reconnecting us with our neighbours, which is what TidyTowns is all about!

### The Built Environment:

Cappawhite was under construction on adjudication day! It would appear that major works are underway and no doubt this will leave you with an enhanced village. The resource centre is a fine looking building but occupies an enormous expanse of hard, open space. Some planting, appropriate in scale to the space is badly needed here. The neighbouring tennis courts look very well. Costello's XL has clean frontage but an

excess of traffic cones and crash barriers, bent lamp poles and a poorly presented boundary creates a poor impression. The RC church is very clean and neat but again presents the viewer with an over abundance of hard space, although shrubbery along the boundary wall is well maintained. The Raparree Drive sign is clean and clearly displayed. The buildings around the main town square are beautifully conserved and retain their traditional aspect. They are generally very well painted and are not obscured by poor signage. Armshaw's bar and Tracey's victuallers deserve special mention for their exceptional facades. It's a shame to see the old church boarded up, are there any plans for this space? The wooden cross is an unusual feature. The boundary wall of the Garda station needs to be painted. The school building was looking extremely well on adjudication day and was flying no less than three green flags, well done! Dereliction is a problem as you have identified, for example the old postmaster's house. Work with South Tipperary county Council on how you can remedy this. Coughlan's pub looks great! Sadly the Xpress stop shop is a problem.

### **Landscaping:**

The grotto is a nice feature that is well kept. The shrubbery here looks well, is virtually weed free and is complemented by the nice stone wall surrounds. In a rural setting such as this the tall trees and green hedges form the principal landscaping features. These are complemented by the network of traditional stone walls and it is great to read how these features are cherished. The park beside the new cemetery is very nice and it was great to see the margin being left for wildlife. Some old hoarding here should be removed however. Attractive flower displays in the village centre were admired. Beautiful rows of birch trees are perfect features outside the school. Looking across the village from the RC church the beautiful, tall trees really frame the central core of buildings here.

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

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 if there are areas designated for conservation close to you at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) or [www.noticenature.ie](http://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. Contact the Wexford Naturalists Field Club or the National Parks and Wildlife Service Ranger who might be able to help you arrange this. You could hold an event to coincide with Heritage Week at the end of August.

### **Litter Control:**

You are fortunate to have a Fás worker do weekly litter picks around your village. Is this sufficient to maintain the high standard that is needed? Are there additional volunteer patrols? Do you participate in the National Spring Clean? This would be most worthwhile. This category is not just about the presence of litter on the ground but how it is controlled. How do you raise awareness of the importance of this task? The car park of the resource centre has no litter but the bring centre here is unfortunately not looking so well with a number of dumped boxes etc. Litter control elsewhere was excellent on adjudication day, well done!

### **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 the recycling is only the forth most preferred option after avoidance, reducing and re-using. One third of our waste is organic in nature – does your town have a brown bin collection? If not try to promote home composting by organising workshops and advertising suppliers of compost bins. One third of our food is thrown out! Give people tips through your communication channels on wise shopping, how to store food, and how to cook with leftovers. Other waste minimisation projects might include working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags, discouraging junk mail, encouraging the re-use of water bottles and coffee mugs at school and at work. Does your school take part in the green flag project? This is an important achievement in this category and should be given full recognition here.

### **Tidiness:**

Please be specific when listing the projects that you have undertaken since last year, for example when you say 'painting of old posts' the adjudicator does not know whether this is planned or has been completed, so do

make sure you give yourself the full credit you deserve. The entrance to the cemetery at the grotto needs to be swept and is potholed. The village centre is generally very tidy and benefits from a lack of major overhead wire clutter. Road surfacing and footpaths are good. An empty, bent pole outside Centra should be removed. There are blank signs on the pole beside the Sli an Beara-Breifne that obscure others and should be removed. The sign for 'welcome to West Tipperary, you've come a long way' is totally faded and should be removed.

### **Residential Areas:**

The Crescent Court estate has an array of beautiful homes that are superbly presented. The Crescent across the road is an older but equally attractive estate. The mature birch and rowan here are perfectly offset by the attractive stone names sign and rose planting. The farmyard mural, screening an otherwise ugly shed wall, is an added bonus - well done on this fantastic presentation  
!

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

On the Tipperary approach road the town name sign is old and worn and needs to be replaced. An nice project would be to paint field gates a uniform colour, for example besides the new cemetery and at the school as this can add warmth and character to outlying areas. Road surfacing is poor on approach from Tipperary Town and on the school road.

### **General Impression:**

Cappawhite is a village with a beautifully preserved architectural heritage. Credit here is due to the community who have kept it that way. You have everything going for you and should build on this with a new three-year plan. This should address the treatment of derelict buildings.