

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TUAMGRANEY**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	26
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>199</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tuamgraney is a new entry to the competition and as such the Department welcomes the Development Associations initiative. It is essential that the Association plan a programme of improvements and development over a 3/5 year period, with clearly defined objectives, involving both the community and the statutory bodies and other agencies, together with any heritage, tourism, youth or other voluntary groups in the area that would have an input. The relevant area includes the approach roads from the village signs, the access to the dock area, all public, private and commercial properties including the enterprise centre and any open spaces, back lanes etc. Success in the competition does not come quickly or easily - however, the real reward is a local community working to improve its own place for its own sake and also so that visitors can appreciate and enjoy the results of the work undertaken.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The natural amenities of note are the area at Tuamgraney dock and the water feature between St. Cronins and the castle ruin, both of which are worthy of development. The development and presentation of Scarriff Harbour is an example of what could be achieved, with possibly a riverside walk along the Scarriff River linking both areas. The water feature between the Church and the Castle has similar potential. There is potential for even greater nature conservation in the village. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Look to your local environmental experts and groups to get involved.

### LANDSCAPING

The village green (the Memorial Park) is most attractive and critical to the overall impression one gets of Tuamgraney. The Development Association and FAS are to be greatly commended for the obvious effort in this area. For future planning, the ESB could be approached with regard to endeavouring to eliminate their poles and overhead wires that take from the otherwise pleasing aspect of the area.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

St. Josephs R.C. Church with its very well maintained grounds; the restored St. Cronins Church; the 15th Century O Grady Castle ( Brian Boru?); the Tomgreaney (sic) National School (1895) all impressed. The plan to restore the Castle by the year 2000 is an ambitious one. Signage around the village and on the approach roads was generally good, apart from the heritage centre signs which could be improved. The commercial properties, particularly the Jet Service Station, McKernans Handweavers, Hassetts Bar and Lounge and O Connells together with a number of the B/B houses ( especially Glebe House) were all worthy of mention but generally the commercial properties facing on to the Green were disappointing - these includes derelict and vacant properties. The owners of these properties should be encouraged to make their contribution - it is particularly unfortunate when one considers the work that has gone into the Green ( perhaps these properties might also consider an appropriate colour scheme between them ).

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is reasonably good throughout - some flyposting unfortunate. Involve the school in this section of the Competition.

### TIDINESS

The overall impression was that the village was generally neat and tidy, marred to some extent by the appearance of some derelict buildings, vacant properties; the areas around the timber works beside St. Cronins Church, broken fencing along the Scarriff road and the area around the entrances at Drewsboro House. The Enterprise Centre could be better maintained and the walled entrance opposite the Heritage Centre could also be tidier and better presented. Footpaths were being re-surfaced at time of

adjudication.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private, residential property in the village is generally of a high standard ( except for the vacant and derelict properties in the vicinity of the Green as already mentioned).

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads could be improved - grass verges had been cut but not to the same standard as in the Green and that standard should be applied throughout. The road to the dock areas should be upgraded and treated as part of the village, with properties along it encouraged to make their contribution. The mobile home problem mentioned on the entry form was noted, as indeed was the old barge tied up there, which should be moved if the area is to be developed to the same standard as Scarriff Harbour.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression is that Tuamgraney, as a new entrant, has considerable potential with its village green, a manageable area within the village signs, access to the river and hence to Lough Derg. With the goodwill of the community Tuamgraney could be a most attractive village. The Department or your Shannon Development Tidy Towns representative should be contacted should you need advice and the Tidy Towns group should note that a plan covering 3/5 year period will be required as an integral part of the entry to the Competition in 1997.