

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	209

Tuamgraney, County Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for well completed entry form, map and details of the Bodyke approach road landscaping scheme. We have noted also your letter advising us that the planned river walk/fishing access between the two harbours in Tuamgraney has unavoidably been put on hold for the present and also advising of the extended village boundaries. All this information was helpful to the adjudicator on the day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many buildings in and around Tuamgraney such as the East Clare Heritage Folk Museum, Tuamgraney N.S., M. Kernan, Handweavers, the Church on the Bodyke road and Hassett's and Joyce's Public Houses were all looking well. In fact the Square, or triangle, is now looking much better with some of the derelict buildings occupied and building work taking place on others. Two of these are two storey stone faced buildings (one of these is nearing completion with PVC windows and doors). These buildings would look much better with wooden windows and doors such as used in Teach Uí Bhriain Public House, also facing the Park. The sale has been agreed on another derelict building in this area which should again improve the appearance of the centre of Tuamgraney when refurbished. On the Scarriff approach, the Statoil Service Station is well presented. However, perhaps Coillte could be persuaded to enhance their premises as they are rather stark at present. The new Eircom brown telephone box was noted as appropriate to the village.

LANDSCAPING

The adjudicator was impressed with the work that has occurred at the harbour where three boats were moored. The good parking here with pleasant landscaping will be attractive to anglers and visitors in general. On the Killaloe Rd., the flower tub at the entrance to Raheen wood had no flowers and was weedy and the entire entrance was also weedy. Of course the weather to date has not been kind to landscaping endeavours. We noted that some planting has been undertaken on the large bank on the left entering the village. However, the plants are still rather small and were rather overgrown – no doubt next year they will be more impressive. At the East Clare Heritage Centre the railings need to be painted at the bridge. The grass and tree planting on all approach roads was noted and admired. The trees in these areas are maturing nicely and present a pleasant introduction to the village. The East Clare Garden of Remembrance is, however, the

centrepiece of your landscaping efforts and looks very well - it is a pity that it was not possible to underground the wiring in this area. Good, colourful and attractive hanging baskets and tubs were noted at a number of points throughout the village. On the Bodyke approach it was impossible to view the Memorial Park as it was overgrown with long grass and as it had rained during the day this could not be traversed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have a broad canvas to work on in Tuamgraney in this regard – the planting already undertaken contributes in this category. On the road to the harbour we noted that near the village the banks are mostly nettles and brambles – further on this improves as near the water meadowsweet takes over. As you seem to wish to leave this as a natural area we would suggest that you get rid of the brambles and nettles and plant fox gloves and white daisies here – it has been done elsewhere to good effect.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little evidence of litter in Tuamgraney during adjudication – well done.

TIDINESS

Overall Tuamgraney presented a tidy appearance except where building work is being carried out at present, but no doubt these sites will be cleared up following completion of the work. At the pottery shop near the Park, the back area here, which is visible to the public, needed to be tidied to some extent. Some kerbs, wall bases and entrances were a little weedy and vigilance is needed. At the Tuamgraney Industrial Estate the gate needed to be painted and the grass in the centre of the Estate was long and had an overgrown appearance.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most private houses in and around Tuamgraney are contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. There are a number of houses being built and others just completed and no doubt all these new residents will be encouraged to become involved in the Tidy Towns endeavours.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach roads the banks were well cut back and good signage prevailed throughout. On the Scarriff approach it was noted that there were some rough road verges but building is taking place here and again, no

doubt, these will receive attention when the work is completed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tuamgraney is looking considerably better now than on the Adjudicators last visit a few years ago thanks to the hard work of the Tuamgraney Development Association. Of course, there is work still to be undertaken and equally importantly what has been achieved must be maintained to a high standard. We look forward to seeing your continuing progress in the years ahead.