

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GURTEEN**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	15	--
The Built Environment	40	21	--
Landscaping	40	20	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	--
Litter Control	40	24	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	16	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	143	--

Gurteen, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator would like to welcome Gurteen back to the Tidy Towns Competition. Your interest in the competition is encouraging for both the village environment and its community. This section of the competition requests that the committee submits a concise 3/5 year plan outlining clear and achievable targets under the various headings of the competition. It is good to see that you have already approached the local authority in relation to your plans for Tidy Towns in the village. Foster relations with all the local bodies and community organisations to facilitate your plans.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village has a rich musical heritage that is recognised by the fine Coleman Heritage Centre. This attractively finished building is located in a focal position in the centre of the village. The brightly painted Centra shop caught the eye, but they should avoid storing materials on the footpath that would interfere with access for people with disabilities. O'Dowd's Garage could tidy the area around their fence. The Pathfinder Inn and Johnston's both looked well with attractive flower features. The attractive log boxes and bilingual sign at Teach Murray also caught the eye. The Church and Church Hall looked very well with its tidy car park, Grotto and flower beds. The light posts at the entrance here need to be painted and maintained. The Community Care building also looked well. The Tennis Court area and approach to the playing field needs a little attention and maintenance. The Green Isle plant also caught the eye for all the right reasons with a very tidy presentation.

LANDSCAPING

Make sure that you get the right mix of bedding perennial flowers and shrubs that provide colour and content throughout the year when planning your landscape features. A lovely stone sign was noted on the approach to the village with a flower bed under construction. A lovely flower bed and seat were noted in the centre of the village creating a nice focal feature. The planting was also admired in the Coleman Heritage Centre and the beautiful beds were noted in the Churchyard. Your trees in the centre of the town are maturing nicely and soften the whole aspect of the main street. There are some beds opposite E.T truck Company that need to be tidied, a simple flower bed at the town sign on this the Ballymote road was also noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition since your last entry. The emphasis is on the conservation and the enhancement of

wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins and meadows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are all important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in the village and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Try to involve the local schools in this element of the competition. Get advice from relevant local bodies and local wildlife experts in your area. The wooded area beside the Tennis Courts looks like a good starting point, having many fine natural features. Bat and Bird boxes, appropriate walks and notice boards are also factors to be considered in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter in the village on the day of adjudication. This section of the competition also recognises appropriate use and maintenance of bins in the village. An effective litter campaign, clean up days and promotional activities are also acknowledged.

TIDINESS

This section considers the overall tidiness of the village to include open spaces, alley ways and backyards. The latter two should be disguised or hidden by suitable screening fences/planting or gates, particularly in areas that might attract litter. It also considers derelict sites in the village environs. Dereliction is a challenge faced and tackled by many villages in the competition. Often an imaginative tidy, paint and cosmetic job can make a dramatic improvement on a neglected site. The old church with its fine stone wall is an example of this in Gurteen. Just cutting or tidying the grass in front of it will enhance its appearance. Lohan Engineering Company is another example of an area that needs some attention just to tidy its visual impact.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Cluain Dara, the new housing development on the Tubbercurry road will look well when fully finished. With similar developments planned elsewhere in the village, it is important that the T.T.C. works closely with the developers and residents to ensure these areas are appropriately developed and finished. Tidy open grass areas, pavements, fences, road surfaces and appropriate shrub beds are all points to be considered. Many of the individual homes looked well on the day of adjudication. Some attractive hedges, boundary walls, flower features and lawns were noted. Some premises need their paint work refreshed and surroundings tidied and maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Ballina approach roads had some good surfaces and tidy weed free pavements. Some of the road signs in the village need some attention. Walls and fences must be well maintained and presented. Weeds need to be removed from the stone walls in

front of the Greenfields development. Grass verges on the approach roads should be cut and tidy without compromising the wildlife and fauna. Hedges should be tidy and appropriately faced at the recommended time. Tidy the area around the Gurteen sign on the Boyle road, it is also an opportunity for another flower feature. The road surface in this area needs some attention. Some new fencing was noted on the Ballymote Road and this could be duplicated in other locations in the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The committee have a number of issues to consider and work on. Try to involve the community in as many ways as possible to fulfil your planned objectives. Both the community, environment and the visitors to the village will reap the rewards of your work. Well done for your renewed interest in the competition and every success with your future plans.