

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	30	27
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	213

Tuamgraney, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form and supporting material presented on the attached document. The creative presentation of the regional context of the town was very helpful for adjudication to other sites outside the village centre. Though Tuamgraney is essentially known for the Y-junction, the significant number of sites in the surrounding area were easily located through the provision of this map. The expansion of information sought for on the entry form provided a very clear direction as to what was achieved during the particular year. However, there is a need to provide a three to five-year works programme. This is an important document required within the terms of the Competition and should be developed so that it can assist in funding from other outside bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tuamgraney has a moderate amount of building for the population size. Though the focus of the village is around the village green, there are a significant number of built projects that extend outside the village environment. Joyce's public house looked very well on the day of adjudication, though it must be stated that the car parking on the steep ramp facing onto the main road is a dangerous element as an uncontrolled car would go over both a pedestrian path and into the roadway. Parallel car parking should be considered at this location. The I.D.A. facility looks well, however the G.A.A. facility requires significant improvement, both the treatment to the grass verges and the walls. The Statoil is sufficiently far away from the village setting not to interfere with the traditional format of a village. Though its design is very large, the provision of the front planter with significant number of roses does personalise this type of industrial development. It was good to see a "Sale Agreed" sign on the property beside Whelan's and hopefully this will be redeveloped soon. There is perhaps a need to screen the more modernist design of the Handball Alley so that it does not detract from the Castle setting. The East Clare Heritage building has a wonderful lych gate which enhances the sense of entry into the space beside the converted church. This gateway has some missing slates which require replacement.

LANDSCAPING

The triangular green is the centrepiece to the village and it has always looked well in all seasons and the Committee must be complimented for the extended level of upkeep provided to this important space. It would be recommended that some of the poles supporting overhead services should be relocated or removed as they do interfere with some of the strategic views of this space. In addition, the Committee should consult with the Local Authority on the relocation of road signs, as these

again interfere with views into the space and look quite untidy. The new plantings at the road improvements on the road to Killaloe need attention in terms of maintenance and though this may be a problem relating to the Local Authority, some consideration must be given to the long-term establishment of these plants. It must be stated that during the time of adjudication it was thought to be a wild flower meadow, but instead it is weeds growing between the young plants. Given the presence of Coillte it would be thought that they would have a better image onto the main road and perhaps consideration should be given to some plantings in the vicinity of their facility.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The entry form emphasises a significant number of sites outside the village centre. This demonstrates Tuamgraney's interest in being connected to many rural and nature sites. Raheen Oakwood is really quite pleasant and the long lane leading down to Raddans quay was worth travelling along. Perhaps future works that might be carried out to improve the G.A.A. field could also address some of the wildlife needs, thus plant types and presentation of landscape treatment would be more natural in such a rural setting. The stream near the Castle has a very nice character and should remain untouched. There is a need to introduce more street trees, particularly on the road to Scarrif where there should be a desire to narrow the very wide roadway.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very effective with little evidence of litter on the day of adjudication, however, the Committee must remain vigilant in this area.

TIDINESS

Tuamgraney has always presented a very tidy compact village centre, though there was concern over potential dereliction near Whelan's, this would seem to be resolved and hopefully new works will improve the presentation of this façade of the village green.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are very few residential areas associated with Tuamgraney as people would seem to have housing outside the village. The terrace of houses beside McKiernan's Handweavers contains a diverse range of gardens, with a strong mix of colour. Dereliction along the road to Scarrif would seem to be increasing and must be addressed before this problem impacts on the quality of the structures.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Hassett's Bar needs better road definition. However, for the most part the roads to Tuamgraney are in very good condition. There is perhaps a need to address some of the road frontages along the Bodyke Road, while the road to Scarrif

does require upgrading. The presence of housing and reducing the emphasis of the road space.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village has a very charming and well appointed village green which is easily contained. For the most part the compact nature of the centre of the village ensures a high quality urban environment. However, there is concern that the new ribbon development extending out of the village is out of character with the traditional method for expanding such a village and new development should take cognisance of integrating with traditional building formats or seriously employ natural landscape settings conducive of the surrounding environment.