

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan**

Ref: **293**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	198

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and village maps. You are now at a stage when you need a phased plan that will chart the way forward for further progress. Such a plan would have numerous advantages and with the backing of the community would give you a mandate for development.

The Built Environment:

The public buildings are well presented again this year. The church in particular looked well. The school is attractive, but the prefab fronting the school has gone shabby. Your weakness in this section related to the petrol station and the overdone signage on the foodmarket. A rural village needs to retain its character and buildings in the village should reflect this. The old national school is interesting and the commemorative plaque to Martan O Ceallaigh is interesting.

Landscaping:

You have improved your marks here and the village offered an attractive array of colour on adjudication day. You have worked hard on grass cutting, tree planting and colourful shrubbery. In particular, the small garden with the interesting stone sculpture presents an attractive image to the village. You should consider a small piece of bilingual text at the sculpture, this would be of interest

to visitors and locals. Many individuals are responding to the community endeavour and this is praiseworthy. Morty Kelly's has a beautiful display of flowering shrubs. The tree planting of previous years continues to enhance. The presentation of the cemetery is excellent and complements the high standard of the church. You have a lot of stone wall development, that should be complemented with tree planting of an appropriate species. The floral display near the speed limit sign approaching the church provides a good introduction to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As suggested last year you should consult with the local school and try and investigate a wildlife project. Even listing the local species would be a good start.

Litter Control:

You have scored well in this section and litter control appeared good on adjudication day.

Tidiness:

You have a number of untidy pockets due principally to some poorly presented open space. Dereliction is also a problem and preventing you from progressing your marks here. Before embarking on new projects make sure you have the previous projects to a high standard.

Residential Areas:

The small housing estate near the church is poor in presentation. This is an ideal project for a residents group and you might tackle this requirement for next year. Some individuals have presented their premises to a very high standard, so well done to them. Boundary walls are part of this category and needs to be kept freshly painted, where the walls are plastered. The village identity sign on the church approach seems to be missing.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have problems with road surface around the village square. The recycling depot is well positioned but needs a little improvement at the surrounds. The work along here is nearing completion and will be quite an improvement when complete. This is a fast approach with a good deal of traffic. Residents and commercial operators should be encouraged to keep their rear and side entrances clean and tidy as there are valuable marks in this category. In particular, premises that are in full view of passing traffic need to be extra vigilant.

General Impression:

The village has improved and was most colourful on the day inspected. You have worked hard on the approach roads and you now needs to concentrate on the village centre. Well done and good luck in 2004.