

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney**

Ref: **52**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **228**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

The work undertaken by the Committee over the last number of years is now coming to fruition. This success is mainly due to the fact that a planning process has taken place and a work programme adhered to in order to reach your goals. "Towards a Better Tuamgraney" 2002-2005 is a worthwhile document. It is obvious that the Tidy Towns report received each year is studied and action put in place to rectify areas cited as being in need of attention. One of your major strengths is that you have obviously motivated the local community in a meaningful way and that co-operation has also been fostered with the necessary statutory bodies.

The Built Environment:

The built environment continues to develop and evolve for the better in Tuamgraney. The floodlighting of St. Joseph's Church, Brian Boru Castle and St. Cronan's Church could not be savoured but no doubt these are spectacular at night. It was noted that Waterways Ireland is undertaking major construction works at Scarriff Harbour. The buildings around the green were all well presented giving a consistent aspect to the core of the village. Ninety per cent of business premises were well maintained but signage at Hassett's pub s was still poor. The East Clare Heritage Centre and the Church were well maintained. The Shannon Development sign at the Industrial Park was broken and the A.J. Precision Components sign here also needs to be replaced or refurbished – otherwise this area was neat and tidy. The poles and wiring around the village continue to obtrude and your plan to duct these underground should be activated. Also, we would suggest that the low

wall be removed from around the green. If the wiring, poles and this wall were to disappear then the beauty of the green and surrounds would be revealed to a greater extent.

Landscaping:

The planting of native trees on the Killaloe road was admired and also the intensive begonia planting further out at Raheen Wood. The picnic table next to this flower bed should prove of use to visitors and no doubt its location is signed on the road from Killaloe. This year the hanging baskets and planters throughout the village were a mass of colour and very welcoming. Redden's Quay was well maintained and being enjoyed by anglers on the day of adjudication – picnic tables here should prove popular.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The native species planted, especially the rowan trees, contribute in this category.

Litter Control:

Litter bins were strategically placed and virtually no litter was to be seen in the village or on the way to the two harbour areas. The daily checks and the signage erected to make people aware of the litter problem are obviously paying off.

Tidiness:

The village was mostly neat and tidy throughout with kerbs weed free.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in and around Tuamgraney are well maintained and contributing to the Tidy Towns effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage was mostly good throughout but road verges in some locations needed attention. We note that Clare County Council has accepted your major new traffic plan and that this will be implemented in September 2003.

General Impression:

Tuamgraney is an historic village set in a pleasant lakeside landscape and it is evident that the residents have its wellbeing at heart. We look forward to further progress in the years ahead.

Second Round Adjudication:

The Famine Memorial Park in Tuamgraney on the main road appeared sadly neglected on second adjudication day, as did the grass verges opposite. These areas were in sharp contrast to the Village Green at the heart of Tuamgraney, which looked very tidy and well cared for, with new trees planted. The adjudicator is in agreement with the comments made by the first adjudicator regarding making the Green more "accessible" by means of demolishing the surrounding wall. The creeper to the walls of the GAA Club was coming along well-however, it's forecourt area appeared rather weedy. Limestone signage looked well, as did the attractive church. Litter control was not as good as it could have been on the day. Even one or two papers in a village of Tuamgraney's size are all the more apparent. Rusty poles to signs should be painted up before next year's competition. The attractive garden to the handweaver's studio, looked magnificent, and is quite unusual.

