

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Conna**

Ref: **566**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **220**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>217</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the map, which was useful in identifying the locations within the village. The overall plan presented does give an indication of the work planned for the three years, but this is very restricted and a more comprehensive plan would enable the committee to organise and focus on the future development of the village. Reviews could take place each year to assess progress. Responsibility could be given to individuals or groups to work on particular projects. The village character is changing very much with the development of so many houses. The large number of building developments currently in progress will place pressures of traffic and other facilities on the village.

### The Built Environment:

The buildings of the village are generally well presented. Some little attention to paint and detail is always needed. The dilapidated house beside the credit union was looking very quaint with the roses in full bloom, but when it finishes flowering, the true dilapidated state becomes apparent and hopefully a remedy can be found to this soon. In respect of the Glanbia buildings, the green structures are in need of some paint attention. The church, the hall and sports complex buildings are looking very well, as is the brick factory. The new convalescing and nursing home is a fine building in construction and should be a good addition to the village when complete. Conna Castle lends character to the village and is worthy of preservation.

## **Landscaping:**

There are a number of attractive landscape features in the village. The planting outside the Glanbia premises looks very well and planting at the church carpark also looks particularly well. The area by the solitary petrol pump is a little in need of attention. A creative approach to this area would be welcome. Grass verges at the approach to the river bridge at the village side are well tended. There is scope for improvement at the actual riverside area. The fence between the brick factory and the sports complex is good. Individual gardens within the village and surrounds contribute very much to the overall landscape and their owners are to be complimented for this. The large green areas within Castlebrook will need substantial planting as will any new housing estate's open spaces. This is particularly important in Conna as there is a wealth of large mature trees in the surrounds (large ash, lime and chestnut) and in order to maintain this tradition and allow the new housing estates blend into the landscape more tree planting will be needed. Tree planting for the next generation is important as the fine trees we enjoy today are the plantings of generations past and we owe a similar legacy to future generations. The street trees have grown very well and are a great addition to the streetscape now

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The river offers great potential. A riverside walk would be a very attractive proposition and would enhance the view of the castle also. The castle area is beautiful. It would be good to have mown down pathways around the castle itself and consideration of renewed tree planting for continuity would be wise. The area below the bridge needs to be grassed and made more attractive. This space offers great potential.

## **Litter Control:**

There is a good standard of cleanliness along the village streets and surrounds. Some litter was noted in places with some on the gravel path to the castle.

## **Tidiness:**

There is a good level of tidiness. The building projects put a strain on the tidiness aspect of the village with all the disruption they bring. This is temporary in nature, but it is important that the finish and reinstatement of sites is done well - the Tidy Towns committee should keep a watchful eye on such. The railings along the road side at the school side of the bridge needs attention as at present the concrete posts with various wire strands look a little unkempt. A red gate of corrugated metal on the road approach to Castlebrook could be painted. The area of the petrol pump and mixed wall behind does not make a good entrance feature to the village.

## **Residential Areas:**

The residential housing is well cared for. As stated above, gardens of many houses contribute well to the overall aspect of the appearance of the town and surrounds. The housing estates need to mature and need good green spaces well planted with trees, good entrances and well maintained gardens. This will help give a more nature look and the housing estates will blend into the landscape - but it will take time.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The road surfaces are reasonably good in all the main areas. Where building work is in progress, roads are badly damaged, such as on the approach to the new convalescing and nursing home. Footpaths are being laid in the village in places. It is important that all new estates have good access by path to the village and that the path to the school is well assessed for safety. The footpaths to the convalescing and nursing home, currently being constructed, are causing damage to

the roots of the trees. Hopefully this will not hinder growth or damage the trees. Road side walls are a beautiful feature and these add great character to the village.

### **General Impression:**

Conna is an attractive village, the castle, the river and the bridge set a perfect tone for a rural village. The new building developments must play their part in blending into this landscape and retaining this wonderful character.