

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grenagh**

Ref: **549**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **201**

Category: **B**

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	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Environmental Enhancement Proposals for Grenagh submitted with the application form are interesting and focus on some of the issues arising within the village. At this stage an overall plan is needed to chart the progress required over the next 3 to 5 years and to plan exactly what is to be done. This is a very much-changed village where the old center of the village is under pressure from newer style city suburb type estates, which need to be incorporated into the original village atmosphere.

The Built Environment:

The Church is well painted and the two public houses are well presented. The shop and the Sports complex look well. The many stone walls are an attractive feature of the area and the wall at the front of the Lachteen estate is attractive with the built-in seating. The revealing of old stone wall features from the roadside banks add originality and this is very welcome. The new stone wall at the entrance to Lios na Ri estate is attractive too. The wall by the cemetery is well maintained and shows yet another style of stonework. This is then linked to the stonewall revealed on the roadside towards the Lachteen Estate. The water pump and surrounding area is attractive and the multicolored seating benches are novel. The derelict and dilapidated houses are well treated with artistic initiatives and it would be great if these sites could be restored or rebuilt and lived in again – this would preserve the strength of the village core.

Landscaping:

The natural roadside banks play a very important part of the landscape of the village. On the Donaghmore road the roadside verges are beautiful with such an array of wild flowers to be seen including a great display of Foxgloves. This style of roadside verge was probably removed where the new estates were built and instead there is now city suburb style landscaping – which is a pity. Future developments should be sensitive to such destruction of roadside local features which help to define rural locations. The tree planting at the sports complex is good and in time these trees will make a fine impact on the driveway. Gardens of houses contribute well to the overall appearance of the village. Gardens on the roadside on the Donaghmore road are attractive. The green privet hedge, so well trimmed, was admired opposite the Gleann estate. The green areas at the new housing estates look well with good tree planting towards the front. There are many more opportunities for tree planting within the open spaces in the estates and by planting trees similar to those in the surrounding countryside this would help to tie these estates into the local environment.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

An initiative is required under this heading. This can be a project that helps with the overall appreciation of nature or the wild life of the area. The hedgerows and roadside verges in themselves offer much in this regard and perhaps a simple project illustrating the range and beauty of the plants that can be enjoyed locally would be helpful and give an appreciation of this great asset on the doorstep that is frequently taken for granted.

Litter Control:

There is an good level of cleanliness in the village. Some litter was noted sporadically through the village. The bottle banks were noted. A constant vigilance is needed to keep litter at bay.

Tidiness:

There is a good level of tidiness in the village and surrounds. The village shop has many materials outside the shop – which are a little unsightly and causes a cluttered appearance. The fuel tank at the church would benefit from painting. If weed killer were applied before weeds emerge at the sports complex it would avoid the unsightliness of the dead grasses remaining after roundup treatment. A house beyond the church has an amount of materials, which could be tidied, and the area cleaned a little more. The timber fences at two locations have good screens. There is a very neat and tidy appearance to the new housing developments.

Residential Areas:

The large new residential estates – Gleann Aras, Clonard, and Lios na Ri all look well and are well cared for. The older --Lachteen estate, is also well cared for with good attention to houses and gardens. Individual houses on approach roads are attractive and contribute well to the overall fabric of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are well maintained to the village. In the village central areas the road surfaces are very rough with potholes. Hopefully the surfaces will be resurfaced soon. Old parts of footpaths are broken and hopefully again this will be remedied. Some old kerbstones are present, when any scheme of new footpath laying is planned it is important that these are recycled. The removal of overhead wire would be a welcome improvement, the black and white road signs are a good addition.

General Impression:

The village of Grenagh is under pressure for identity with the huge introduction of new housing estates, It is important that the old village center can assert its presence and form a unifying nucleus for the entire village incorporating the new and the old.