

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emo**

Ref: **95**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **217**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	217	218

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed form and the attachments which detail the progress and in some cases the frustrations which are part and parcel of your active tidy towns committee. Emo is a very pleasant village to visit. It is a tranquil place with a gentle pace of life. The proposed diversion of traffic through the village as indicated in your notes must be a matter of deep concern as its probable impact has major implications for its future development.

The Built Environment:

The GAA Ground wall could do with screening. The church looks very well with its beautifully trimmed decorative trees. The gated garden and car park with shelters on the opposite side were clean and tidy. The School looks fine but there is some disruption in this area caused by unfinished building work. Coolbanagher Church and grounds looked very well with colourful flower boxes and trees. O'Flainns shop was being painted at time of visit. There is an attractive cut tone house at the village cross roads corner with a well maintained garden.

Landscaping:

Village road surface is broken in some parts but it is understood that some road development work is planned. The village cross roads looks well with a nice planter of flowers, and the entrance to

Emo Court features the repaired gate lodge and public lighting. The verges have been cut and display small planters of flowers. There is an attractive variety of trees and cut verges. One house in particular has a wonderful garden.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Emo has a wonderful potential in its woodland and hedgerow habitats. It is encouraging to read of your contact with Coillte regarding wildlife information and signage

Litter Control:

Nice to see the sponsored litter bins at various location throughout the village. Your litter control programme is working well.

Tidiness:

The unfortunate Emo Garden Centre banner is still somewhat untidily placed in a corner hedge. Trim grass at the bottom of 30 mph sign on Portarlinton road. The boundary wall at the GAA Park and the Community Centre is unattractive and landscape screening with plants is recommended.

Residential Areas:

The little estate is fine with barrels of colourful flowers and open grass frontage generally well kept, but one area is not being maintained. The houses and commercial premises within the village are tidy if not very colourfully presented. In the surrounding area, there are a number of bright new houses with maturing gardens colourfully displayed with seasonal flowers and plants.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges on both sides on the Portarlinton approach have been trimmed but probably need more attention. Closer to the village at the GAA grounds the verge has been nicely trimmed, but on the right the footpath has a fair amount of kerb weed. The GAA Ground wall could do with screening. The approach from New Cross is very attractive with forest on both sides, and some nice new house where verges have been trimmed. The picnic amenity area is well presented, perhaps the yellow posts could be freshened with painting. The mature estate walls along the right are fine. The road up towards the school looks fine with its repaired walls. The entrance to Emo from here is excellent, with fine views , trees etc. Some trimming of verges is required at Kennils cross.

General Impression:

Coolbanagher Church and Emo Court gives it an unique place in Ireland's heritage. Perhaps colour consultants advice should be sought for the villages commercial buildings. New investment into the village, as reflected in some every fine housing augurs well for its future.