

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Errill**

Ref: **35**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	235	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition and for your work plan and map. Errill is a beautiful village, its central greens and mature trees providing a gentle backdrop to its cross roads, residential houses and commercial properties. Your attention to detail as indicated in your work plan is commended.

The Built Environment:

The village cross roads is very attractive with its greens, mature trees and fountain and pump feature. St. Bernadette's community hall was clean and tidy with hanging baskets. The national school looks well, painted and nicely landscaped with maturing trees along its front wall. Tierney Park looks well. There is a well maintained grass area opposite the houses, although the brick wall feature requires some restoration work. At the estate entrance is a fine planter of colourful flowers and sign in both English and Irish. Dowlings Pub looks exceptionally well with hanging baskets and window boxes. The RC church is clean and tidy. Two attractive planters of roses at its front and hedging around the car park edges. The roadside wall opposite the church car park is colourfully off set with roses and wall plants. The adjacent house is bedecked with flowers. Sign posting is excellent. The post office looks very well with its unusual window surrounds.

Landscaping:

Repairs to the pump beside the school have been completed . The Honorary Baron of Ossory memorial looks well on its stone plinth and surrounding grass. There are very fine walls linking the school to the village. The excellent garden on the left on the road from School, with colours protruding above its wall, was noted. On the left of Roscrea road is an attractive amenity with cut grass and seating. However the wall is broken in parts. There area some nice mature trees and the green area at the junction of Rathdowney Road looks well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The grave yard and its ruined church is quite a spectacular feature. Some interpretation of the ruined church is recommended. Good to see the restoration of village pumps and your proposal to build a wildlife garden

Litter Control:

Your litter prevention programme appears to be working well.

Tidiness:

Surprisingly, there was some kerb side weed along the connecting wall from the school road left to the village and in front of Allen's Pub. The house to the left of the school corner could be freshened and weed removed. The recycling bins are located in a less than tidy setting. There are also some broken walls, mainly due to house building.

Residential Areas:

The Village View Estate is very well presented with is series of planters set in a maintained green area. The estate is connected to the village centre with fencing, hedges and trees. Some repair work required on fencing but otherwise fine. Tierney Park area is excellent with its cottages and open grass area opposite. Walled amenity feature not complete. Nice display in planter at entrance. Surrounding the village are a number of noted residences with well developed gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Errill Village sign is partly covered by grasses on the approach from the Rathdowney Road. The approach from the Templemore side shows a very nicely presented verge. Some kerb side weed along new wall to the left and also some builders rubble. The approach from the Roscrea side has a number of individual house developments ongoing, resulting in broken frontages.

General Impression:

Errill is a delight to visit. The village's green is most attractively laid out and its mature trees very impressive indeed. The church ruin and graveyard is a memorable feature connected to the village by fine stone walls.

Second Round Adjudication:

Errill is a very small village with a population of 160. There are eleven members on the committee and this is a very commendable figure. The result of their work can be seen throughout the village, especially around the village green. This village green of five separate grassed areas was unexpected to come onto. Beautifully maintained and tranquil with its many chestnut and some birch trees. From the Templemore entrance road the wirescape is very obtrusive. In the coming years, these cables should be removed with the co-operation of the ESB and the county council. The church ground in front is all tarmacadam, but at its sides and rear is pleasantly landscaped. Many trees such as chestnut should be planted in the grounds. The two small housing estates are very

well maintained and its planting gives a very fine display. Dowlings shop is most elegant and simply detailed and deserves an award. The school grounds deserve praise for its well kept building, landscaped grounds and mature trees in front. The adjudicator was impressed by the long stone wall extending from the old church and cemetery grounds to Tierney Park. The cemetery was well maintained and it was noted that the commemorative plaque here states it was restored by the Tidy Towns Committee in 1992. Well done. The adjudicator was impressed by the schedule of projects set out in the Village Work Plan. Take the projects step by step and do not over-extend some members of the committee.