

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timahoe**

Ref: **607**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **192**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	192	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

As indicated on last year's report, Timahoe should manage its tidy towns programme through a 3 to 5 year plan. A simple listing of works to be done and an ongoing record of works completed would identify longer term village development. In this regard the involvement of a specialist botanist in regard to the river is very welcome indeed.

The Built Environment:

The Timahoe Round Tower is nicely presented in cut lawns. It is recommended that some interpretation information should be displayed. It is also recommended that the information panel missing from the timber casing on the abbey ruin wall be replaced. The Willie Headon library with its red painted doors looks well. Repair work was ongoing on drain pipes. The approach to the Round Tower is attractive with its pedestrian bridge and overhead lamp.

St. Brigid's Hall Community Centre and the basketball court look tidy, although painting of the hall's woodwork would improve its presentation.

The school looks well with its yellow walls and colourful window boxes. New trees have been planted along the right hand side behind timber fencing. Health Board premise which fronts onto the green was cleanly presented. Church grounds are clean and tidy. Wall closest to the village displays an attractive array of flowers and plants. Lawns are trimmed and there is a colourful display in front of the Marian shrine. Railings are painted black and silver and the tarmac area is generally weed free. Around Delaney's Hardware shop is an attractive display of flowers which help

dress the building. Delaney's Hardware was in the course of repainting frontage on inspection day. Ramsbottom Bar looks well with planters in front. The Tower Bar also looks well with its barrel ended seating. Kerrs shop front is disappointing, but the house between Kerrs and Keitleys has nice presentation with railings. The infill with maturing trees works well.

Landscaping:

The village green looks well. It is open and gives a feeling of spaciousness. It is well maintained and has a number of interesting features such as the village pump, the central gazebo, commemorative stone etc., but most impressive are the groups of tree plantations with seating under each. Table tops are missing off most tables but their replacement appears on-going. The area at the back of the dispensary looks quite well with its grass areas and plants. It helps dress the riverside amenity access to the Round Tower. The new fountain to left of Stradbally road looks colourful and tidy with newly established flowers. Area around famine bowl is well presented but there is some weed extending out to the road. The display panel detailing walks and trails requires cleaning.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river is a fine feature and the committee is commended for its taking of specialist advice in protecting and encouraging wild life development. Timahoe and its delightful surroundings has much to offer in terms of wildlife habitat. The combination of cut and wild grasses of the upper grave yard works well. The wall mounted signs for Fossy Walk, Esker Walk etc. look well but could be cleaned. Football pitch and grave yard look well.

Litter Control:

There were some isolated shows of litter, but generally, litter free. Adequate waste bins are in place.

Tidiness:

The usage of the entrance to the small housing estate on the Stradbally road as a coach park should be discouraged as it could lead to quite an untidy area. The wall closest to the town is damaged. Buggies and old caravans continue to be a problem. The approach to the basketball court has an old dilapidated house which has gone past the point of restoration and has been overcome by weed growth. There are a set of 5 recycling bins at bottom of the court.

Residential Areas:

The small residential estate on the Stradbally Road was a little disappointing. As mentioned under the tidiness heading the coach park gives an uncared for impression and grass areas require maintenance.

A number of houses did impress with their well presented mature gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village sign is nicely set on the approach road from Portlaoise which is lined by an avenue of maturing trees and trimmed verges. The farm building wall to the right is pleasantly screened with roses. There is a good approach to the village from Stradbally side with the school and maturing trees. Swan road approach has cut verges and maturing trees on right. Access to Timahoe from the Carlow side is fine with timber fencing and cut verges. Against the left wall at village entry is a

planter which hides an otherwise uninteresting wall.
All access roads have cut verges and generally look well.

General Impression:

Timahoe is a delightful village to visit. The village green with its stands of maturing trees creates a very pleasant ambience with the Round Tower a focal point of interest. The engagement of specialist advice in regard to riverside development is very welcome and this along with the wildlife sanctuary in the Tower grounds will add to attractions of Timahoe. Some more work in interpreting your environment is recommended.