

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Legan**

Ref: **761**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **181**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	180

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application and information. The village is undergoing quite a transformation - with roadworks, new paths and a lot of new housing development. A new plan is required to deal with these developments and it should be undertaken in conjunction with Longford County Council. The Ceili House was noted - it is hoped that wooden windows will be used rather than PVC which is so prevalent in some of these buildings and looks totally out of place.

The Built Environment:

The school central in the village looked well and the new trees were admired. Whytes Checkout was nicely painted and clean. There were fine boxes on the house next door to it. Smyths Bar was simple in presentation and yet effective - very reminiscent of the older bars years ago. Kiernans was resplendent in black and white though the shed at the back was in poor condition and the gate at the yard beside it required a coat of paint.

Landscaping:

The village did look well on the evening of adjudication though the high use of annual plants must require high maintenance. (e.g. the stand outside the school). The red and yellow boat seemed a bit out of place and the annuals within it were not performing very well. It is suggested that an

overall landscaping plan is developed and this through the use of similar species trees and shrubs link the village together for year round form and color.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife section had not been explored and it is suggested , particularly in conjunction with the school, that a plan is developed to identify the variety of habitats in the locality. The naming of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and plants is part of the curriculum. ENFO, the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Birdwatch Ireland are some of the organizations that can provide useful information - they all have websites. The use of bird tables/ boxes and even bat boxes in suitable places can help encourage and integrate wildlife into the village.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noticed in the shelter beside Smyths pub (shelter looked a bit dilapidated) . The black bins were well presented though some of the older concrete bins did not look well and really require replacing. Are there litter campaigns/awareness being operated in conjunction with the school?

Tidiness:

The village was not considered under this category as roadworks and development had such an impact. The adjudicator liked the idea of a voluntary hour per week being given by each household - it shows a great sense of community.

Residential Areas:

The new houses will bring additional people into the community - more for the tidy towns initiatives - Rockview in the centre of the village looked well and already some of the houses demonstrated boxes and containers. The new estate on the Longford road is set back in the fields - this should be landscaped in complement to the surrounding field with use of native trees and shrubs. There was a house at Smithview Crescent which displayed an amazing array of butterflies and flowerpot men! Another opposite, had a fine display of flowering plants. It might be considered to utilise the green area at the end of this estate as an amenity area for children. Grass needed cutting and long grass required removal from the base of trees. Houses on the Colehill road were well kept and had some nice front gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The lead in from Ratharney was good - the stone welcomes the visitor nicely. The Longford road approach also looked well, though the development of houses is some way outside the village and this will have an impact on the approach road. The Colehill road had a long lead in and there was fine stone walling along this route too. Do ensure that native flora are allowed to grow on the stone walls as they can appear quite sterile otherwise and apart from their environment.

General Impression:

Legan was difficult to judge due to the amount of work being undertaken on both the road, the footpaths and on new housing. The adjudicator looks forward to the completion of all of these and also to a plan of objectives which will focus the committee in the coming years.