

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enfield**

Ref: **157**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **226**

Category: **C**

Date: **17/06/2003**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 42 | 42 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 24 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 31 | 32 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 28 | 27 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 28 | 28 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 226 | 228 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition which included a very well completed Entry Form, a three to five-year Development Plan and some photographs of the Committee and their activities. A membership of fifteen on the Committee is very good and they are to be congratulated. The three to five-year plan is of great help to the Adjudicator to assess the work being done. The Adjudicator was pleased with the Committee's liaison with the local statutory bodies, schools and residents, in particular with the establishment of a "Tidiest Estate" competition. It is very important to continue this liaison with the various groups mentioned as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee.

The Built Environment:

Enfield has a population of approximately 1,350 people. It is a linear village surrounded by a newly completed by-pass road, stretching from roundabouts at either end of the village. New housing estates are being developed each side of Main Street and are giving depth to the village. Buildings are attractive and could be more so with less signage. On the day of adjudication there were street repairs on Main Street which was disruptive. It was hoped, with the recent completion of the by-pass, that heavier vehicles would not use Main Street, but they are, and they were quite prominent and disruptive during the road repairs. The present Sewerage Works have been upgraded and with the railway station will, undoubtedly, increase the number of new residents to the village. The Committee is to be congratulated on the encouragement to the residents associations to develop

their gardens and general environment.

The large signage on entering the village is most incongruous and distracts greatly from the appearance of the village. There is also a proliferation of small shop signs. It is hard to see the need for so many. Possibly the Committee could, in conjunction with the shop owners, devise a common but distinctive series of shop signs.

Landscaping:

A tree planting programme could be initiated by the Committee on the approach roads into the village and in the school site. The school children must play an important role factor in this tree planting programme. Trees must be indigenous and berried, or other forms of fruit bearing trees. Tree species to be used could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut, lime and thorn. It is suggested that the Committee should consider the creation of a mulch bank for the grass cuttings, leaves, etc. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the village in their planting beds and planters. The Committee is to be congratulated on their continued work on the Leisure Park along the canal. It is a most pleasant area and the planting of 3,000 bulbs was a wonderful undertaking. Additional floral hanging baskets could also be encouraged.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Royal Canal Leisure Park is a natural area in which to encourage wildlife, and the restocking of this section of the canal with fish is a commendable job. The existing trees in this park area, together with the planting of berried trees throughout the village should greatly encourage bird life. Congratulations on the kingfishers - hopefully the Adjudicator may yet see one. It was disappointing to have had 500 trees killed due to wildlife (was this due to the action of rabbits?)

Litter Control:

Little litter was seen in the village on the day of the adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement.

Tidiness:

The two roundabouts at each end of Main Street, where the by-pass to the village starts and ends, is a disfigurement to the village and the Committee should undertake to make improvements, notwithstanding the lack of response from both the County Council and the N.R.A. The roundabouts should be cleared of all weeds, the areas deeply rotovated and seeded with grasses and wild flower mixes. Their present state gives a very bad impression. The Adjudicator is sure that the County Council and the N.R.A. could not object to the actions of cleaning and seeding. During the school holidays there is a general tendency to neglect the school grounds. It is important that the Committee along with some pupils should keep the grass cut in the school grounds, pick up windblown litter and keep the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free of weeds. The Garda Station and its grounds were outstanding and should be commended. The wirescape is disfiguring to Main Street, possibly the Committee, through many discussions, could persuade the County Council and the E.S.B. to underground the various electrical cables. The bus stop building looks derelict and very shabby and should be improved by at least painting. Possibly the Committee could persuade the owner to improve the building.

Residential Areas:

There are a number of residential estates built and being built, both in and adjacent to the village. Most of them are most attractive in appearance, especially their front gardens. This must be happening due to the encouragement of the Committee and their estates competition. This is a wonderful idea and as new residents come to the village they will work on the appearance of their estates and gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned under Tidiness, the roundabouts should be visually improved by the removal of weeds and seeding, possibly with wild flower mixes. It is difficult to see how the County Council or the N.R.A. could object to this work. At present they distract greatly from the appearance of the village.

General Impression:

A pleasant village, somewhat disfigured by two uncared for roundabouts at either end of the village main street. With a railway station and an enlargement to the sewerage works, there is the potential for a sizeable increase to the population of this village.