

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tulsk**

Ref: **199**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	25	22
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	191	184

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tulsk is very welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included not only details of your work programme but also details of your heritage. This has been helpful in adjudication and enlightening. Congratulations on your partnership approach to developing the main features of your village and in particular well done on flood lighting the Abbey. We wish you well in your future plans for this heritage feature. Congratulations on the development of your Heritage and Visitor Centre, it was much enjoyed by the adjudicator. The building itself is being considered for the new Architectural Award and the promotion of heritage is being considered for the Heritage Award. Well done to all concerned.

The Built Environment:

As noted above the Heritage and Visitor Centre is a fine development that sits discretely into its surroundings and adds significantly to the built environment of Tulsk. Both the church and the school are fine buildings and well located on the entrance from the Dublin road, however, this will need some re painting quite soon. The Garda station has some nice features but its boundary wall is in need of refurbishment. The large building near Moylans at the Westport end of the village is a focal point in the street scape and more could be achieved for this building and its curtilage area given its prominent location. Low roofs to buildings should be well maintained, two such roofs featured weed growth in gutters and moss. Its fairly unusual nowadays to see dated plastic neon signs and quite a few of these were noted in the village. The biggest problem in the eyes of the

adjudicator under this heading is the expansive curtilage areas throughout the village which badly need to be resurfaced and in many cases which are untidy. These include the curtilage of the Tusk Tyre Centre and the Tusk Carpentry and Building Contractors. Together with the curtilage area noted above beside Moylans shop.

Landscaping:

The stand of mature trees at the graveyard are a handsome feature of Tusk and the well maintained lawns at the Dublin entrance together with young trees and flower beds at the church are all an important visual treat at this end of the village. The small flower bed on the traffic island at the cross roads is not visually effective as it is too small. It would need to be raised and planted more thickly to make a stronger visual impact. Well done on the presentation of the club rooms at the GAA grounds.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The meadow of buttercups on approaching the village at the Westport end of the town were a delight to see and of course the ducks at the visitor centre were a great treat here for visitors which gave a lot of enjoyment. Well done in this regard. Do compile a list of flora and fauna found in the area and circulate to all concerned, in particular send in details next year.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good although there were a few week spots. Litter was noted in a verge across from the Catholic church, also trapped at the barrier in the small stream at the Visitor Centre. Neither were serious problems, however if they're not tackled immediately they tend to grow. Send in details of your litter management strategy with next years submission as this can earn you additional marks also.

Tidiness:

Well done on your participation in the national clean up day in the Spring. It's good to note information regarding the old hall being demolished and the new stone wall and gate erected. The recycling point was quite tidy and we note also the clean up referred to at the sports grounds. The biggest problem under this heading is the many untidy curtilage and forecourt areas to commercial premises, this will stop the village from reaching its full potential in the competition.

Residential Areas:

Most houses are presented to a good standard, reference has already been made to the Garda station which is or was a private dwelling. The small estate on the Dublin entrance to Tusk is being well maintained, well done in this respect. Keep up your efforts with residents regarding the presentation of their boundary walls and also encourage them to take responsibility for the road side area outside.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Congratulations on the resurfacing of foot paths and also on the lack of wire scape. Approach roads in general were over grown, perhaps the nicest approach road and entrance was the Castlereagh road. The entrance from the Boyle road is really bad because of the curtilage areas noted above. Many road signs were dirty and in need of cleaning, some of them needed to be refurbished. The Bus and Carpark on the hard shoulder at the GAA grounds also need to be resurfaced as do car parking areas in the centre of the village. Most of the 'Kelly' signs on approach roads could be up graded.

General Impression:

Tulsk is located on a very busy road and while the impression of the village is favourable on the Dublin entrance and to a lesser extent on the Westport and other entrances, the entrance from the Boyle road is particularly bad and this problem is compounded by poorly surfaced hard shoulders, forecourt, curtilage and car parking areas in the village centre which all combine to give Tulsk an unfinished appearance.