

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banada - Tourlestrane**

Ref: **435**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **172**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	22
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	166

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is quite an achievement, co-ordinating activities between two centres, and the Agency is to be congratulated on the result of its efforts. The connection between the two villages would not be noticeable were it not for the extensive documentation supplied: other than trimming the verges all the way between the two centres, which would be a virtually impossible task, it would seem that there is no visible means of showing that this is one overall scheme and not two. Your map has been most helpful in identifying all the sites, in fact it is one of the best received this year.

The Built Environment:

The handsome church at Tourlestrane is very well kept, as are its immediate surroundings. The Banada Community Centre was in need of freshening up with paint on the day of adjudication - this was also mentioned last year. It would be good to have it match the excellently presented school building nearby. Mullarkey's is an exceptionally well kept licenced premises.

Landscaping:

The fine peace park and the Fair Green were perhaps not quite so well tended as this time last year, especially in relation to the mowing of lawns. There are some fine roadside gardens throughout the neighbourhood - the enormous Sweet Williams in several beds were quite remarkable on

adjudication day. Tubs and window boxes were colourfully in evidence. Planting in the Corpus Christi housing estate was most successful, and was also very successful outside the church. The major initiative has clearly been the rehabilitation of the historic graveyard. The metalwork gateway is superb. Newly created paths were looking very neat. When considering the long-term value of the garden, do think in terms of permanency - the heaths, for example, seem much more appropriate than bedding plants; so would flowering shrubs, or evergreens which would be attractive all the year round. Surely it is dignity rather than prettiness that is needed in a hallowed place like this. Plastic sheeting should either be removed or concealed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was good to see the fine old trees so well preserved, especially in the vicinity of the abbey and river, and also to see that your tree-planting programme continues. The waterside gardens and pathway were conspicuously well presented. A great deal of clearing seemed to have been achieved around the bridge. The feeding facilities for birds were not seen, probably because they are appropriately located in places where there would be no disturbance.

Litter Control:

The recycling area was noted. The litter bins appeared to be new. Litter control was good, except in the vicinity of Tourlestrane cross roads.

Tidiness:

A small piece of ground opposite the Village Inn, and a site between the Inn and the Banada road, needed tidying up. There was also kerbside weed from the Inn to opposite Walsh's; this cross roads could be a very pleasant area if tidied up - a job which should only take a couple of hours two or three times a year. There was also considerable weed growth along the wall of the GAA Park; the planting of climbers on this wall would help to take away the bare look. There was also weed growth opposite the Peace Park, and on the roadside in front of a very few houses. An unsightly shed opposite the graveyard needs attention.

Residential Areas:

Individual homes were almost all very well kept, many of them with charming front gardens. In a very few cases there were weedy frontages onto the road - it should be the responsibility of each householder to keep their short stretch of road side clear of weed growth. The Corpus Christi estate is something of a showpiece, but there was quite an amount of weed in the gravelled area. The post and wire fence at the end of the road needed attention - in the long term, a hedge, wooden paling or stone wall would be attractive if a replacement is considered.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were reasonably good. The car park at Tourlestrane was very neat and litter free.

General Impression:

A very interesting entry and an interesting place to visit, especially since the inauguration of the graveyard project. As suggested last year, a detailed 3-year (or 5-year depending on the amount of work that might be envisaged) would help you to identify your priorities, both new developments and continuing maintenance, and allow you set year-by-year targets for completion.