

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carney**

Ref: **622**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **216**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	34	32
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	216	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

There is a definite feeling once you arrive in Carney of a vibrant community which directs its energy into creating an attractive dwelling place for its people. This feeling is further exemplified when one sees the number of new homes occupied by people from outside who must obviously have noted the charm of the village and wish to settle in it. It would be interesting to know - perhaps you might mention this on next year's entry form - if you are encouraging newcomers to join the committee and help in the good work. Next year, when enclosing your map, please also mark all sites of importance (for example, in this year's map none of the new housing developments are shown) and name the different roads - e.g. 'To Lisadell', 'to Grange' etc. Most of the comments made by last year's adjudicator still apply; what you will find below is an elaboration or updating of these.

The Built Environment:

The most prominent building in Carney is Brady's, which is very well kept. The mural map is not only decorative but also accurate and helpful! Business premises were all smart and attractive. This year the condition of the School/Scout Hall had deteriorated somewhat and needed attention. Most of the building in Carney, however, is in the residential category (below).

Landscaping:

The shrubbery on the main approach road gives a very good initial impression to the visitor. When the shrubs mature, this will be shown to have been an extremely worthwhile project. The grassed area with tables leading to the long herbaceous border by the river was as neat as anyone could possibly imagine - a delightful and tranquil centrepiece to the village. The lawn at the western end was neatly mown. Troughs and tubs here and there throughout the village provided fresh colour and emphasised the committee's careful attention to detail.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The highly ambitious riverside scheme could be taken as either 'Landscaping' or 'Wildlife and Natural Amenities' - yet it is appropriate to both. The river is wonderfully free running and clear of unsightly materials, the bridge area is beautifully kept, the long herbaceous border did need some weeding at the date of adjudication but nonetheless impressed by its extent and by the imaginative step which must have been taken in creating it. In due course you might consider the erection of an illustrated board showing the different species of wild life in the neighbourhood.

Litter Control:

New bins were noted. The village, the existing and completed residential areas, and the approach roads, were remarkably free of disposable litter. Congratulations to the whole community.

Tidiness:

The comparatively unkempt site to the left of Brady's, and the poisoned weeds (such as at the Yeat's Football Club) detracted from the overall tidiness of the village. Poisoned weeds should be removed, as they look rather worse than growing weeds! Unused stones and builders' rubble should be cleared from under the ash tree at the entrance to the riverside. An unusually weedy field at the junction of the road leading towards the sea caught the eye in an unfavourable way.

Residential Areas:

The older street houses are very well looked after - the former Post Office is a real delight: its cultivation of climbers could be a model for others. The derelict cottage opposite Brady's is well disguised - one imagines it will not be vacant for long as it is in such a pleasant location. Orchard Grove was looking very bright and cheerful with its paintwork, neat paths, lawns and plantings. Most of the individual homes on the road to the sea have fine stone frontage walls; more of this should be encouraged instead of cement blocks. A stone house with brick facings was much admired. Of the large new homes immediately above the sea road, the use of pale colours on three of them is very successful, and others should be encouraged in the choice of colours which will blend. An open space here needs grassing or cultivation; however, it is not expected that new developments can be magically completed in a year or two. The building scheme in progress to the north would benefit from extensive tree planting along its avenue, and on the main road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The excellent verges have already been mentioned. Paving is also excellent. Lamp standards at Orchard View were admired, and perhaps the local authority will provide more attractive lighting elsewhere. The road to the north past the new estate will presumably be repaired and suitable hedging, fencing or stone walls provided in due course.

General Impression:

This has been a very pleasing visit for the adjudicator; it is most heartening to see so much good work in progress, and to read of your future plans. You should certainly keep in close contact with developers and the local Planning Office on the matter of the new estates: all too often when

housing is completed there is a lengthy period before tidying-up of the locality is undertaken; this should be foreseen and steps taken in advance to ensure prompt attention.

P.S. Your 5 Year Development Plan was received after judging had been completed. An additional mark has been awarded in respect of its contents, but a higher figure might have been awarded if the adjudicator has been in a position to study the document while walking in the village. It is an appropriately foresighted list.