

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Easkey**

Ref: **567**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	31
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	13
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	12	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	194

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed that on your entry form you did not fill in the sections on Local Support, Wildlife, Tidiness, Roads, Streets & Back Areas, nor did you give an indication as to what you consider to be the unique features of your village. It is difficult for the visitor to identify the important sites which should be seen unless you provide this kind of information. As you did not enclose a map, the difficulty was even greater. It is hoped that none of the essential areas were missed, but without the essential briefing one can not be certain.

The Built Environment:

The steeple of the charming old Church of Ireland church forms a distinctive landmark in the neighbourhood; it was good to see restoration in progress on the date of adjudication. The RC church is superbly maintained; its exceptionally neat car park might be less bare if it were divided here and there with hedges or other planting. The nearby school is also well kept, and has attractive shrubberies. The school on the Sligo road looks very cheerful with its bright blue and white paint. The paintwork on the Garda Station could do with some freshening up. Some well kept business premises were favourably noted; the new butcher's shop should be an asset when completed.

Landscaping:

The grass area of the park by the splendid river cascades was reasonably well maintained at the time of the visit, but all the seating needed maintenance. Blue painted seating at the caravan park was in good order. There were plenty of pleasing tubs and window boxes throughout the town. The cemetery was well kept. Because of the absence of information it is not known if there were any new initiatives under this heading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wonderful riverine and seaside location should provide first class opportunities for activities promoting local wild life. Last year's adjudicator noted that you had not entered any activities under this heading either. It is quite possible that you have in fact undertaken useful initiatives, but one did not know where to look for them. If you did not, there are a number of suggestions in the Tidy Towns Handbook which might be considered. It was good to see a notice requesting care in the areas where corncrakes are known to nest.

Litter Control:

There were small amounts of litter at a number of points throughout the village. The bin in the main street was overflowing on adjudication day. Some deliberate dumping of refuse bags was also seen.

Tidiness:

There is a prominent site next the Atlantic Hotel that is outside the area of judging and therefore is not marked in the competition, but it gives a poor impression as the visitor arrives in Easkey by the Sligo road. The entrance to the caravan park was unkempt on adjudication day and there was much weed at the toilets area; the interior of the Gents had seriously broken porcelain. A large apparently derelict shed in the the cul-de-sac and a rusty iron roof near the Fisherman's Weir are unfortunately eye-catching. While the ancient ruined buildings overlooking the riverside park are clad in ivy, a prominent unsightly modern building there is not so well disguised. It is a pity that such an attractive village should be marred by such small but significantly untidy sites.

Residential Areas:

There are several very pleasant traditional terrace houses which provide real character to the main street - their owners can be justly proud of them. Among the distinguished older residences, a fine cream two-storied house caught the eye next the bridge. Archer Cottages with their good stone boundary walls, lawns and plantings, and the exceptionally neat Woodview Drive nearby, would both benefit from tree planting. An un-named more mature residential road in the same area was also admired. The entrance to the new Riverbank estate looked promising; it is hoped that when completed it will be in keeping with the village environment. Houses in the cul-de-sac with charming gardens were also favourably noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces were generally good, with the exception of the church road. The lamp standards are excellent. An unusually well kept car park with a shrubbery was noted at the main street. Many well build stone walls, old and new, were noticed; only a very few needed repair. Entrances to back areas that needed tidying up were seen next the Garda Station and at the Recycling area, but in general this was a good category.

General Impression:

While there were several well kept areas and individual buildings, there did seem to be an unusual number of less than pleasing sites for a small village with such a large Tidy Towns committee. Maybe this was just a year in which the plans did not come together as successfully as usual. The

location is superb, and that is something that is always positive.