

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange**

Ref: **307**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **206**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	201

Overall Developmental Approach:

Yours is a remarkably comprehensive entry, as exemplified in your answers to the questionnaire and to your support documentation and excellent map. It should be assumed that sites or developments not referred to below are perfectly satisfactory: generally it is only the new or outstandingly admirable initiatives (or the unusually weak items) that are commented upon.

The Built Environment:

The Church, Hall and Parochial House were all looking splendid on the date of adjudication: this is a positively eyecatching cluster of buildings. The National School was also very well presented. The main Vocational Schoolbuilding was also looking well, though the rear of its adjacent sheds were negatively eyecatching. Shops and business premises in the main street were well maintained, the flowers on sale at Rooney's adding a delightful touch of colour; yet none of the shopfronts were of quite the standard which would gain recognition in the national awards. (In this regard the whole building has to be taken into consideration as well as the joinery and painting of fascias, and lettering; upper storeys, gables and chimney stacks have to be included and there can be no mass-produced signage or window-stickers.) The row of three small shops on the side street were particularly admired. Some of the industrial and commercial buildings are not only well designed but also well maintained, among them Gilroy Tiles and Londis-Textaco.

Landscaping:

The park, and especially its sculptural centrepiece and surrounding herbaceous planting, is a real achievement. Lawns were trim on adjudication day, rose beds were well tended and the young mountain ashes were doing well. The public seating was very neat and clean indeed. Many small floral displays throughout the village, including beds, tubs and window boxes, were admired. It is assumed that the concrete trough outside Barry's will be filled and planted in due course. Roadside planting, especially of shrubs, continues to be particularly successful on the Donegal road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Tree planting on the Sligo road is a major initiative and well carried out. The number of fine old trees surrounding the village, especially outside the adjudication area on the Sligo road, make a wonderful backdrop. The wildflower garden on the Streedagh road corner could not be precisely identified as there was much dock and nettles, and also a small band of grass containing vetch, clover, buttercups, plantains and dandelions. If this is the spot, it is certainly very natural. Your bird habitat programme is impressive.

Litter Control:

This also impressed on adjudication day. A mark of over 30 is unusually high.

Tidiness:

Grange is certainly a tidy village. A very few spots needed attention on the date of the visit - they may indeed have been tidied up by the time you receive this report. A neglected site almost opposite the Vocational School was seen. The fence opposite Willie's was in need of painting. Parts of the roadside in the commercial area as you come from Sligo are neglected; because most of this area is well maintained, the less good spots are more noticeable: in other words, there is inconsistency. There is a dreadful clutter of official signs - fortunately as you leave Grange rather than when you enter - on the Donegal road; this may be outside the remit of the Tidy Towns Committee, but it is worth mentioning in the event anything can be done.

Residential Areas:

Well painted houses in the main street are the most characteristic of Grange and clearly are proudly looked after. A stone house near the Vocational School was especially admired. Most of the neat houses in Pine Grove are well maintained; this estate would benefit from roadside tree planting. A new estate of white houses is well kept; lawns, and planting at the termination of the road, were favourably noted, but some boundary walls were already quite stained. Trees would help to take the rather bare look of this development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Paving is excellent. Surfaces are generally above average, because of the importance of the main road. The main road itself obviously creates problems, for the constant flow of traffic inhibits a true appreciation of the village, and must surely be detrimental to village life. It is unlikely that a by-pass will be built, but could pressure be exerted to have pedestrian lights installed by the responsible authority? It was good to see roadside verges in the process of being strimmed on adjudication day.

General Impression:

This has been a very stimulating visit. It is heartening to see so much good planning on the part of the Tidy Towns Committee backed up by residents and the business community. Every good wish for the continued success of your endeavours.

