

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughmore**

Ref: **742**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **178**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	21
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	178	176

Overall Developmental Approach:

Loughmore Tidy Village Association is indeed fortunate with the amount of support it gets from both FÁS and the local school. It is a village with much to offer resident and visitor alike, with its ruined castle, abbey and mill. The adjudicator was, however, disappointed to note that no map or development plan had been included with this year's submission - despite the fact that their absence was noted and commented upon in last year's report.

The Built Environment:

The parish centre mentioned in last year's report still looked rather drab and should be freshly painted in a cheerful colour for next year's competition. The attractive stone wall with traditional circular piers was greatly admired. Both pubs looked well. The Loughmore Inn was extremely fresh, however, there is scope for a landscaping project to its forecourt area. The school and boundary wall were extremely fresh. The modern church was fine and the new graveyard looked well.

Landscaping:

The pub had been freshly painted with its fancy stone wall with recessed arches and gargoyles. The attractive planted area by the cottages adjacent to the railway bridge was greatly admired. The riverside picnic area was well maintained, although the tarmacadamed path is not quite appropriate

and a more suitable material could be considered in this location. The permanently planted bed and gravel base at the bend in the road by the mill was greatly admired. Do resist the temptation to put chains around your landscaped areas. The use of bollards or boulders in these locations would be far more appropriate.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a category of the competition which you, disappointingly, left blank on your application form. Do try to enlist the help of local wildlife experts in order to put together a plan for the maintenance of wildlife habitats in your locality. The local school children could also get involved by drawing up a map of areas of wildlife interest in the village.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Papers were evident on approach roads, particularly the Templetuohy Road. One or two papers in a village of Loughmore's size are all the more evident.

Tidiness:

The yard and car park area next to McGrath's pub, which had been a problem area last year, was fine. However, an overgrown site adjacent to the school looked quite unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

Most of the houses on the Thurles Road looked well with fresh boundary walls, although one or two appeared rough in comparison. An old house was in bad condition, but a site notice had been erected in this location. It is to be hoped that any work that is done will be appropriate to the character of the house. An attractive house with a marvelous outbuilding that followed the street line sported roses and lilies in the garden and was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road to Thurles was extremely overgrown and sported cow parsley. On the Templetuohy side, it was also extremely overgrown with nettles and cow parsley. The signage was unreadable in this location due to this overgrowth - particularly worrying, given the number of warning signs in this location. The retention of square traditional signs is to be commended. In terms of street furniture, the benches throughout the town appeared rather flaky and should be painted before next year's competition.

General Impression:

Loughmore is an attractive hamlet set in some beautiful scenery in County Tipperary. Before next year's competition, it is essential that you draw up a three to five year work programme. This document need only be two or three pages long outlining your objectives and establishing a timescale in which these will be implemented.