

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Puckane**

Ref: **347**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **185**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	21	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	16	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	185	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Puckane is indeed welcome to the Tidy Town's Competition in this, your first year of entry. The village has made an excellent start to the competition. Hopefully you will find the comments made in this report constructive in terms of formulating your three to five year work programme which should be ready for next year's competition. This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your objectives and establishing a timeframe in which these objectives will be achieved. The adjudicator would suggest that five on your committee seems rather a small number given the population of the town at 400 strong.

The Built Environment:

The church looked well, as did the school, although the railings to the latter should be painted before next year's competition. Kennedy's and the adjoining Village Store looked extremely fresh in yellow. The simple raised individual lettering to the former was greatly admired. Hanging baskets were on display and looked well.

The adjudicator was pleased to note that the committee is not solely relying on the cosmetic appearance of buildings, but is also working to maintain the buildings' fabric. This is very important, so please keep up the good work. McGrath's Bar looked well and it was noted that there was both a timber sign and a plastic sign. Do ensure that projecting plastic signs are replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

The grotto was admired. The brown painted village pump appeared to be somewhat dull, however. Perhaps you could consider introducing more colour to this, for example by using a brighter earth tone. The car showrooms are an obvious area to implement a landscape project as at the moment, the area appears quite bare and would benefit from the softening effects of some landscaping. The tennis court area was fine although some weeds were noted to the base of the fence in this location.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Puckane is indeed fortunate to have a strong central element in the town of a tunnel of mature trees either side of the road at the rent-an-Irish-cottage scheme. These must be a haven of many wildlife habitats. Do get the local school children involved in drawing up a project of the wildlife habitats in their locality. Local experts can help to advise in the promotion of this aspect of the competition, including how to maintain these habitats.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control in the centre of the village on the day was generally very good. However, one or two papers were noted on the Ballinderry and Dromineer Roads and by the tennis courts. Generally, however, the village was reasonably litter free. Other items to consider under this heading are the provision, location and condition of litter bins.

Tidiness:

Some outbuildings and sheds in the village looked sadly neglected. These are a wonderful composition of structures which should be restored to their former glory. The hedge which has been planted in front of the wire fencing to the GAA pitch will pay dividends in time. Be sure to paint the entrance walls before next year's competition as at the moment they appear quite neglected.

Residential Areas:

The thatched rent-an-Irish-cottages were well maintained on both sides of the road. Pegs and Pat's thatched cottages were admired, although it should be borne in mind that structures such as these were intended to be rendered. Dúchas, the Heritage Service, are quite concerned that buildings that were traditionally meant to be rendered are now having their plaster removed in order to expose the stonework below. This is incorrect in terms of good conservation but also from a practical point of view as it will lead to water penetration and damage to the building fabric in time. An attractive garden to a bungalow on the Nenagh Road was admired and a number of fresh bungalows on this side looked extremely well. There appeared to be construction work taking place to a house on this road. The semi-detached bungalows on the Dromineer Road were well presented although one or two boundary walls were not of the same high standard. A magnificent garden to a house opposite the tennis courts was admired and another on this road had a marvelous display of roses overhanging their boundary wall.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Stone walling appeared to be in progress on the Ballinderry Road. In terms of street furniture, the bench on the Borrisokane side of the village will need painting before next year's competition, as will that to the estate on the Dromineer Road. The village nameplates on the Nenagh and Dromineer sides of the village will also need attention before next year's competition. Generally approach roads were fine, although do try to strike a balance between the roads looking wild and looking over manicured in order to achieve a more natural appearance.

General Impression:

Puckane is an attractive village which has made an excellent first entry to the competition.