

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Connolly**

Ref: **481**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **194**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for entry form and sketch map received from the Kilmaley Meitheal Company. The information contained therein was helpful on the day of adjudication. Connolly is a very pleasing rural village on the Mid Clare marked walking route. The small Committee of six are to be commended for taking on the task of trying to bring about the best for their village. Hopefully, other volunteers will join you in your endeavours in the future.

Even though you are a small community we would again suggest that you draw up a one page plan outlining the items you would like to get done in the next few years in order to focus your efforts.

The Built Environment:

The Church is dominant in the village and well maintained. The idea of placing a seat outside is thoughtful. However, the plants in the containers here were very poor (perhaps the dry spell) and heaps of gravel remained after use on the grounds.

The School, O'Boyles Shop and the Post Office were well presented, neat and tidy. The Texaco Filling Station and Shop on the Ennis approach was also neat and tidy and the provision of a picnic

table here is helpful. However, the PVC porch and windows are out of keeping with the character of the village and perhaps the owners would consider changing to a more traditional structure.

Landscaping:

Quite an amount of work was undertaken in providing flower beds and tubs throughout the village. Unfortunately, as at the Church the plants in these were poor. To have a good display all such planting must be weeded and watered on a regular basis. More trees planted in the housing estate would enhance this area – perhaps these could be rowan or mountain ash trees whose berries would also supply food for the bird population.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Any planting, as mentioned above, contributes in this category. Perhaps the National School could have their pupils carry out and audit of wildlife in the area. The Tidy Towns handbook will give you suggestions for other types of wildlife projects.

The approaches to the village already feature wild flowers such as montbretia, rhodendrons and ferns. We would suggest that you add to these and plant more fox gloves, white daisies and honeysuckle (woodbine) to greet those approaching Connolly.

Litter Control:

Well done in this category – the school anti-litter policy is obviously working. Bins were noted at strategic points in the village and the one by the School was actually full.

Tidiness:

Outside of some items mentioned previously, the village was quite tidy. We note that Connolly is one of four areas in the Parish served by a depleted FAS scheme. No doubt this also affects the planting as mentioned above.

Residential Areas:

Most houses and gardens were well presented including the houses in the Estate – is there a name for this Estate. If so, it would be good to display this name on a stone or wooden sign at the entrance.

You do have one problem house in the village. However, most towns and villages have similar type problems. If you keep working around this premises no doubt some solution will be found in the future.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your work on the approach roads was noted and admired. However, road verges in general were very poor and the road into the housing estate needs an urgent upgrade. Of course, this work is outside your control but the Committee should meet with the Clare County Council to discuss such items. Also, some directional pole signs needed to be painted. Kerbsides were weedfree throughout.

General Impression:

Connolly is a lovely little village with many attributes which deserve to be preserved and enhanced. Keep up your good work.