

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney**

Ref: **121**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **231**

Category: **B**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>228</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

All the documentation received including entry form, map, "Towards a Better Tuamgraney 2002 – 2005" and 2004 Work Schedule (28 action items with the names of Committee members assigned to each) were impressive and helpful on the day of adjudication. Other items that impressed were the brochure of the East Clare Heritage Centre setting out the antiquity of Tuamgraney and its surrounds and the many historic items and heritage features to be found in the area. Also, the excellent Tuamgraney Development Association Newsletter giving details of all your activities and including some of the Adjudicators comments from last years report. Whilst it is good to have all the statutory bodies working with you, it is also vital to motivate the entire community. The amount of practical and financial support you receive as outlined in your submission prove that you are achieving this aim with ninety per cent of the community giving you support.

### The Built Environment:

The area around the Square continues to improve except for the two derelict properties still in existence and it appeared that work was commencing on these as the roofs had been removed. The Garda Barracks, the School and the Church of Ireland were looking well. At Hassetts Pub the signage is still untidy looking and the woodwork at Joyce's Pub needed attention. Otherwise both these pubs have provided pleasant landscaping features around their premises. The frontage of Teach Ui Bhriain

in the square and also the side facing the laneway were well presented with good use of window boxes. The plants for sale outside the Old Hall Garden shop add colour in the Square. The Shannon Development Enterprise Centre was well maintained and the title signage mentioned in last years report had been replaced. However, the A.J. Precision Components sign was still poor and bringing down this area where a number of business enterprises are situated. Clareville House B/B and gardens were admired as was the architectural design of the premises which is appropriate in a village such as Tuamgraney

### **Landscaping:**

The approach roads, and especially the Killaloe approach were admirable with the well mown grass, tree planting, flower beds and tubs of flowers. The ivy planted at the GAA grounds on the Bodyke approach to soften the walls here was noted. The Famine Memorial on the same road was well maintained on the day of adjudication but perhaps the entrance could be improved here. The flower containers on the entrance to Reddan's Quay add colour here and some permanent planting in this location should be considered. Reddan's Quay was well maintained with five fishermen in situ. The new picnic table is a good facility here and perhaps a couple more could be provided. There was quite a large storage of some type of equipment/ building materials at the quayside, presumably for future work taking place. At Scariff Harbour, which is also part of Tuamgraney the work continues for the Waterways Ireland Regional Headquarters. The Memorial Park in the village centre, which commemorates four men killed in the Troubles in Killaloe and more recently, Dr. Edward MacLysaght, an academic who had many roles in the building of modern Ireland, is immaculately kept and a credit to all concerned. As you know, both reports last year mentioned that the wall surrounding this Park should be removed to open up this lovely green space, but we note that this is not possible as it is a part of Tuamgraney history. However, perhaps it could be softened and made more attractive and in keeping with its surroundings with some planting inside and a change of paint colour and stone texture – it would be good to get some expert opinions on this. The stone name signs for the village were once again admired as were the flower tubs and hanging baskets throughout.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

All the planting undertaken contributes in this category. However, in the future you might consider a more specific project under this heading given the broad canvas at your disposal.

### **Litter Control:**

There was no litter to be seen on the day of adjudication – obviously your daily litter picks and signage re litter awareness is proving successful.

### **Tidiness:**

Tuamgraney mostly presented a tidy appearance except for the derelict premises mentioned above. Also, at the GAA grounds roadside car park we would suggest that the car parking area be separated from the grass area by a curbstone to delineate between each for ease of maintenance. There is an open site on the square where it would appear that a building was knocked down. Hopefully, this will be appropriately replaced in the not too distant future.

## **Residential Areas:**

Private houses in and around the village and on approaches were very well kept, with some exceptional – well done to all who made the effort in their gardens and with tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. Especially noted were Glenwood and the house next door in the village and the houses on the road to the Harbour.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces were mostly good in general but some roadside verges needed attention. The directional signage was fairly good throughout with most of the rusty poles mentioned last year either repainted or replaced. Laneways were well maintained.

## **General Impression:**

Tuamgraney is a historic village, now situated at a busy junction in County Clare. The work already undertaken has ensured that it has kept its character and provides an attractive and colourful welcome for the resident, visitor and traveller alike. We look to further progress in the future.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The Memorial Park plays a very central role to the entire village making a great focal point and village centre. A dead tree in the park and one by the roadside could well be removed. The road surfaces seem very patchy and in need of attention. Difficulties with footpaths were noted – especially between Joyce's and the Island restaurant where cars were parked on the path and tables and chairs on the path forced people to walk on the road. The footpath on the edge of the green requires that people cross the road to this and is not really satisfactory. The area at the river is nicely treated. At the junction of the road to Reddans Quay a roof is off the building at the corner. Reddans Quay area is well tended and the picnic table is nicely set – some more tables would be welcome here. The carpark at the GAA grounds needs attention - it is not well defined and very weedy. The famine Monument – while no doubt is sited in its appropriate place – is not in a place where one can stop and this is a very busy and dangerous corner – perhaps this could be repositioned within the Memorial Park.