

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lismire**

Ref: **232**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **181**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 25 | 24 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 22 | 21 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 14 | 14 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 29 | 28 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 29 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 181 | 175 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The comprehensive outline of your Tidy Towns plans together with map is very useful for adjudication purposes. There are many interesting features in the village but as you have identified, there are difficulties such as derelict sites and these obviously have to be dealt with. However, since you have identified various features - historical, etc. there is a good base from which to work. From the background information supplied it is clear you are working with the Local Authority and the IRD Development Agency and this represents a positive approach for future development.

The Built Environment:

Buildings in the village are generally of a good standard. The National School is excellently presented. The nearby shop is also nicely maintained. The Catholic church is a fine building and is well maintained, as are the adjoining grounds. It is noted that it is undergoing internal refurbishment at present. The Community Hall premises at the Lismire GAA Field and the adjoining walls at the entrance are well painted.

Landscaping:

There are some attractively planted gardens adjoining many homes in and around the village. The planting in the church yard and in the vicinity of the church looks well. The flower tubs at the

church are colourful and obviously well attended to. For the future, it is suggested that the Development Association give consideration to more tree planting in and around the village where appropriate; such planting enhances the overall aspect of the village considerably.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village is located in a fine rural area where natural habitat exists for many wildlife species. The planned wildlife project including a Duck Pond, etc. at the Priory Wood sounds great. However, the designated area having been eventually located is quite inaccessible at present due to dense growth and no apparent access visible. It would seem to be a suitable location for such a project but it is suggested that when this project is being undertaken, specialist advice should be sought from the wildlife authorities, etc. you will find contact addresses in your Tidy Towns Handbook.

Litter Control:

There was, in general, a good level of litter control in the village. At the old school site there were some small amounts of litter. In the areas of derelict sites there was also some litter. All communities need to be vigilant in relation to litter. The community should note that the litter control always has to be high on the priority list. It is suggested also that the school be brought into the process and this may help considerably in both creating and maintaining an awareness of the litter problem.

Tidiness:

The derelict and semi-derelict sites in the village do take from the overall effort which is being made and these should therefore be dealt with as early as possible in your action plan programme. The areas in the vicinity of the school and church were quite tidy and this included the car park near the church. The area in the vicinity of the Community Hall was also tidy but weed/grass growth here would need to be watched.

Residential Areas:

Overall there are many attractively maintained houses and gardens in the vicinity of the village. House and gardens at St. Joseph's Terrace were nicely presented. In this area of the Competition all residents can play a part; by good presentation of houses and well cared for gardens a very pleasant atmosphere can be presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On both the Kanturk and Newmarket approach roads, there was the familiar Duhallow Trail name-place signs and these were well maintained. However, in the case of the Kanturk approach, a large portion of this sign was concealed such was the extent of high grass and weed growth nearby - this would certainly need to be watched for the future. Also the grass verges on the Newmarket road were not well maintained. The long stretch of stone walls along the area of the church looked impressive. The plaque erected in 2003 on the wall here commemorating the O' Sullivan Bere Leitrim March of 1603 passing through Lismire on the 400th anniversary of the march is a worthy initiative. The efforts of the community to utilise the site of the demolished "Lismire National School - 1838" is noted and it is hoped that this will come to fruition when legal difficulties are overcome. It is also noted that work has commenced on new footpaths in this area of the village. The fine stone wall, which has been erected at the GAA Field is very impressive. The Development Association, the local community and the Local Authority are to be complimented on the construction of the new access road to and turning area at Kilmacow Cemetery - Reilig Cill Mac Cu. It is suggested that perhaps a maintenance programme for the cemetery be undertaken. Whilst some areas of the cemetery are well maintained, for the most part it is somewhat neglected. But it is very much to be welcomed that a decent access is now provided to this historic place. Since the village is located in an important agricultural dairying area, the community is also to be

complimented in acknowledging this fact by way of "The Churn" project. It is a very imaginative original idea and the use of the "20 gallon" churn is indeed impressive.

General Impression:

The community is making a good effort to project a good and positive image of itself. Participating in the Tidy Towns Competition provides a good opportunity for this. A good foundation is available now on which to build. The community should, therefore, continue in this positive mode and in time real progress will be made.