

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grenagh**

Ref: **267**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>201</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The enhancement plan presented with the entry form makes for very interesting reading and sets about presenting an overall approach to the manner in which Grenagh can develop. At this stage, looking at the village, it is clear that the original village has become part of a much larger collection of housing developments surrounding it. The importance of keeping a village centre and retaining the traditional style is very important - otherwise the village could become just like a suburban housing estate and lose its character. In relation to the plan, it is important to focus on the items and to make a priority list. Next, a plan of implementation for the next three to five years needs to be considered. This would be a useful yardstick for annual assessment.

### The Built Environment:

The church is very well painted and looks attractive. The sports complex is a fine facility and great to have for the village. This building would benefit from painting at present. The QuikPick shop and surrounds are well cared for, although, the old petrol pumps could be removed and some tidying of stored materials would be helpful. The stonewall features throughout the village are very attractive and give a nice village aspect to the scene. Particularly good is the stone featured wall along the road frontage of the Lachteen estate. The combination of artifacts, seating and planted areas within the wall, make a fine village centre feature. The water pump and the various seating look well. The red and black combination of seat by the water pump at the roadside junction is very good. The treatment of the dilapidated cottage with an artistic touch is an amusing and good way to respond to

this problem.

### **Landscaping:**

The large open spaces around the housing estates – Cleann Aras and Clonard - have been well planted with trees and shrubs. These will take time to make an impact. Any opportunity to plant trees- particularly of the less ornamental type – would be helpful. Plant the trees of the surrounding countryside – Ash, Lime, Sycamore, Beech and Oak. These, in time, will make the village merge with the surrounds. The many gardens to the roadside contribute well to the overall appearance of the landscaped village. The stonewall feature, as mentioned above, to the front of the Lachteen Place is important in the landscape. Tree planting alongside the entrance to the Community complex is a good feature.

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

Hopefully developments will take place in this respect in the future. With the large populations of the housing estates it would be wise to have such facilities. The roadside verges have a lovely combination of wild flowers and it is well that these are appreciated and maintained in a manner to preserve them.

### **Litter Control:**

There is a good standard of litter control in the village and the good management and awareness of litter is paying off. Continued vigilance is needed, as this is an ongoing challenge.

### **Tidiness:**

The village has a tidy aspect particularly due to the manner in which the new housing estates are incorporated into the surrounds of the village. The care and attention to the benches and by the pump shows a good level of attention to detail – which is all important where tidiness is concerned. The large shed and surrounds along the road beyond the church look a little untidy and hopefully some response can be achieved there. The oil tank in the church ground would benefit from a painting.

### **Residential Areas:**

As stated above, the new housing estates are now forming an important part of the village. These have plenty of green space around them and this will prove to be beneficial as the tree planting matures. Care should be taken to keep a watchful eye on all developments to ensure that they are well finished off and planted before the developers leave the site.

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

There is a very good surface throughout the village and this contributes well to the appearance of the village. The roadway to the sports complex is very rough and in need of good surfacing. Signage is attractive. Removal of overhead cables hopefully will be done – the absence of these in the new estates looks so well. The roadside verges on the approach roads are attractive with the range of wild plants. The Cork road on leaving the village has a nice green mown verge at one point with good tree planting.

### **General Impression:**

Grenagh is a changing village and it is well to have pointers from the Image Enhancement Plan for the future. Retaining the core of the village and at the same time facilitating the new housing estate style developments is the main challenge.

