

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughanure**

Ref: **563**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **233**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/06/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 38 | |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 35 | |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 30 | |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 233 | |

Overall Developmental Approach:

All the information submitted with the application form was very well defined and valuable in understanding the background of this lovely village especially the ongoing details and plans for the village in the rolling 4 year plan and building on from the work started by Coiste Forbartha . The sense of pride and community effort is quite tangible when you arrive in the village. It would appear that a comprehensive development plan is being targeted for Loughanure within the Tidy Towns remit and working in cooperation with the statutory bodies and local businesses. After an absence of 8 years it does appear that considerable efforts and inroads have been made, with room for some improvements in some categories. The photographs give an excellent picture of the village at it's best and highlight the ongoing work and developments in Loughanure.

The Built Environment:

The centre of the village is well presented. The Irish College and Thatched Pub are well maintained and attractive. The new Stone Kiln at the crossroads is a nice feature, seating nearby would be suggested and a plaque to describe the Lime Kiln history and its connection to the village and region. The completed work on the Kerbing and footpath at the crossroads with the planting of the Yew Tree indigenous to this area also added to the focal feature of the crossroads. The work on the Restoration of the old stone walls and construction of the footpath at Min na Mara road are attractive. The erection of a stone monument on the Dungloe Road in memory of Niall O'Donaill is a nice addition to the village. The New housing development is nice and stone built walls in keeping

with the environs. The Handball alley is an eye sore and would need to be demolished as soon as possible, the school prefab could do with a freshen up paint wise and some attention could be given to the few derelict cottages/buildings on the back roads, also the road down to Lake and on the Annagry road.

Landscaping:

The Landscaping at the New Garden on the Dungloe road gives a nice picture as you approach the village, in terms of growth and impact it currently could do with more colorful bedding and height and it will flourish in time over the years. The bedding and Yew Tree "Taxus" at the Crossroads is attractive. The trees and flowers on the site at the Crolly road are lovely. Most private houses are nicely landscaped and those that have hanging baskets and flower pots stand out. With the village being so compact in the centre I would suggest that more of the private houses and cottages might look at investing in hanging baskets and Flower pots, visually it would be have good impact as you arrive in the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sign posted walk to Min na Mara is welcomed and in time the development of a bird sanctuary at the new Garden will be an added feature. I would suggest that within the natural confines of the Lake and Green belt areas there is an abundance to develop Wildlife and natural amenities and ample opportunities for wild life appreciation in the village. It would be nice to have some information plaques/signage that would illustrate the birds, fish and mammals that are local to the area located at the lake/garden or at the crossroads. School projects relating to the local environment would be good and an ideal way for children to become involved in their local community. It was lovely to hear the Cuckoo while visiting.

Litter Control:

There is a very clean and tidy appearance in the village and surrounds. Some small amounts of litter were spotted on the footpaths outside the school but the children were just finishing their lunch break. An emphasis on litter free environment and the importance to the community would be well worth passing onto the young people to stimulate their part in the overall campaign for the village.

Tidiness:

Weeds were not visible except to the front of the Boathouse just outside paving area. The access road to Crolly could do with a little more planting and overall tidier look with some work to be carried out on uneven surfaces at the side of the road, but overall a very tidy look to the village. All approach roads were well maintained and strimming had been carried out and the roads were clear and well maintained.

Residential Areas:

Most houses were very well maintained and tidy and there was a sense of pride in the homes and the gardens add to the beauty of the village. Some were note worthy such as Teac Neilli Beag. The new Housing development near the Irish College was attractive and finished off well with the stone walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces in general are very well maintained with main roads and footpaths all in good condition. The restorative work on the walls on the Min na Mara and stone walls at the front of some of the Houses were a nice additional feature and added to the natural features and beauty of the

village. Attention to a number of roads including some of the back roads and the road down to the Lake could all do with resurfacing.

General Impression:

Loughanure is a lovely village in which the building and other work performed so far contributes and is in keeping with the traditions of the village. There is a positive approach evident from the committee and from the report submitted. It takes time to bring about certain aspects of improvement. Drawing up a workable plan and setting realistic targets is the start of a successful committee and commitment and hard work always win out, I have no doubt that each year Loughanure will make great inroads. Congratulations on the work carried out thus far and in your lovely sense of community.