

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caltra**

Ref: **420**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	32	33
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for your application for this year's Tidy Town. The map was very clear and helpful. As the adjudicator recommended last year, it is important that you draw up a 3-5 year work plan to help plan your Tidy Towns activities. It will help you focus on achieving realistic goals, and can also help the community become involved. Caltra looked well on the day of adjudication, and it is obvious that some people are making a great effort to improve the appearance of the village. It is also good to see that you are managing to raise support through fund-raising activities and are working in co-operation with Galway County Council.

The Built Environment:

There were a number of well presented properties in the village centre, including Kearys, the building beside it, the pub/fast food outlet and the Caltra Inn. The buildings were nicely painted and had attractive flower displays outside, although perhaps the signage on the Caltra Inn and the adjoining foodstore could be updated. The newly restored forge looked very attractive - well done. The Church and its boundary walls also looked well, as did the newly painted clubhouse. On the approach from Ballinasloe, there is an unoccupied traditional cottage on the left hand side which could be made an attractive feature of the village if it was restored. The National school looked very well. Some buildings in the village could do with freshening up.

Landscaping:

The area around the grotto looked very well and the landscaping on the approach from Galway/Tuam was particularly attractive with flowers, shrubs and well kept grass verges. There was also good planting and flowers to the front of the garage and at the National School. The landscaping at the playing field is overgrown and could add a lot to the appearance of the area if it was weeded and tended on regular basis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As mentioned earlier, the flowers and planting at the National School looked very well. Perhaps the children could get involved in wildlife projects such as surveying the local trees and hedgerows and identifying the wildlife they encourage.

Litter Control:

Overall the village was litter free but there were some black spots - there was litter at the playing fields and outside the church. I would suggest painting the litter bin at the Church, replacing the bin in the centre of the carpark at the playing fields, and adding extra bins at the entrances to the playing fields. The area may also benefit from anti-litter signs to increase awareness among those who visit the area for games or religious services.

Tidiness:

Your project to tidy the graveyard is paying dividends as it looked very well on the day of adjudication. The new sign for visitors to keep the cemetery tidy is a good addition. The telephone box in the centre of the village has been nicely painted. In general, the grass verges and green areas in the village were neat and tidy, and the recycling area was also tidy.

Residential Areas:

Houses in the village were generally well maintained and there were some very good individual efforts. Residential areas appeared to be neat and well kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from Ballinasloe was good - there was good lighting and a very attractive stone wall on both sides of the road. The approach from the Galway/Tuam side was excellent thanks to good landscaping and the overhanging trees. The car parking area at the junction of the road leading to the Church could be resurfaced and marked out once the construction work across the road has been completed. The road outside the Church has recently been resurfaced, but the surface in the car park at the playing fields is in urgent need of attention and the boundary walls and gates could be freshened up.

General Impression:

Both approaches into Caltra are very attractive, and some premises and houses in the village have made a great effort. You have made a great job of highlighting and maintaining some of the village's unique features such as the weighbridge, the forge, and the grotto.