

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clifden**

Ref: **517**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	208	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and the detailed documentation accompanying it. We would strongly recommend the re-drafting of the existing plan and its updating. Clifden is a most attractive Town nestling on the edge of the Atlantic with its own river and bay. It is evident that the local business community in general are supporting the Tidy Towns initiative as well as the community of Clifden in general and this is a credit to you all.

The Built Environment:

The owners of the few neglected properties should be approached to improve their buildings. The majority of residences and business properties looked very well on adjudication day and obviously support the work of the Tidy Towns Committee.

Landscaping:

The millennium monument, street furniture and the fine planting at the square looked very well and indeed was a busy location on adjudication day. The fine colourful display of hanging baskets, flower arrangements and bedding throughout the town on numerous buildings and locations looked splendid and added colour to the town, a credit to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your commitment to the development of the wildlife and natural amenities aspect of the town is noted. However, it is important that the projects and studies previously undertaken by the schools and colleges is somehow brought forward and where possible built on. Under this category the river and sea are potential amenities that are on your doorstep. Could these not be further exploited, for example, by tying in the survey of the various species of flora and fauna found in the area with appropriate mapping and signage.

Litter Control:

You have put major effort and resources into litter control. In the centre of Clifden little litter was noted on adjudication day, but some areas outside of the town centre core were disappointing in terms of litter control. Litter was noted in the following areas - the road at Showgrounds and the car park adjoining rear of Station House Shops complex.

Tidiness:

The general area around the Showground's looked untidy. The recycling facility on the Galway road is well maintained and looked well. The area at the pier with iron and building material looked untidy and unsightly. It is important that any building and site works in Clifden are monitored to ensure they are kept tidy. Do make sure that the display of signs and retail goods on pavements does not become a problem for the town. The overall appearance of the town was one of tidiness and welcoming.

Residential Areas:

Overall, the standard in this category was good with most residential properties maintaining a high standard of presentation, a credit to all concerned. The odd house and road boundary wall needed to be re-painted, however in general most property owners are making the effort. Some fine private gardens were also noted. An excellent use of colour in several areas caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general the approach roads were generally good, the road to the beach at the handball alley was disappointing due to weeds and high grass covering the fine stone walls. Old stone walls should be maximised and exposed where possible, where this has been done especially on the approach roads they look well. Storage areas should be screened off, it is good to see an improvement to the rear of buildings, sites and storage areas on Market Street in view of the Ballyconneely road across the river.

General Impression:

Clifden is a very attractive town, and the community, supported by the business community, is obviously working hard to preserve its unique character. You still have a number of projects in the pipeline which will show great dividends when complete. Keep an active eye on the weak areas especially neglected properties and areas outside the centre core of the town. It is the all inclusive comprehensive approach to Tidy Towns activities that will bear fruit. Well done to all!

