

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eyrecourt**

Ref: **274**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **186**

Category: **B**

Date: **19/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	22	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	186	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for your entry to this year's Tidy Towns competition, including the extract from your draft IAP plan. It is obvious that a great effort has been made by your community as the village was looking very well on the day of adjudication, and there seems to be a good level of co-operation with agencies such as the County Council, FAS and your local youth club. There are a number of very worthwhile actions contained in the IAP. The next step for your committee is to prepare a 3-5 year work plan for Tidy Towns, outlining which actions will take place each year (some actions may take a number of years to fully complete). Please submit a simple hand-drawn map with next year's entry to assist the adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

I understand you have a problem with derelict buildings, but it is obvious that an effort has been made to limit that with the use of hanging baskets which camouflage some of the buildings very well. Premises such as the Garda Station, Burns, Post Office, Horans and O'Meara's looked very well. The library building looked well although the boundary wall could be painted. Both the building and the grounds of the Catholic Church looked very neat and well cared for. The overall impression at the square could be greatly enhanced by freshening up a number of unoccupied buildings at the corner of the square, and beside the Catholic Church. St. Brendan's Convent National School looked well with newly painted railings and colourful bunting. The Church of Ireland was very impressive, its gates and railings well painted, and its setting within a collection of mature

trees and well kept grass was very attractive.

Landscaping:

I noted some attractive flower beds and landscaping on the entrances from Lawrencetown and Portumna. There was also some good landscaping on the square, with a combination of trees, shrubs, and flowers. The paving and lighting was also very attractive and the information sign on Eyrecourt was well presented and a good addition particularly for visitors to the town. As mentioned earlier, the presence of hanging baskets and flower pots on some derelict buildings helped the appearance of the town. However, it is important to also plan shrubs and trees for year round colour - your audit of landscaping requirements planned in your IAP should identify improvements required. The landscaping at the Catholic Church was well planned and cared for.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Eyrecourt is situated in a rural environment, where native trees appear to grow well, and is naturally wildlife friendly. A number of initiatives are planned in your IAP concerning water quality, promotion of wooded areas, establishment of a rookery, an ecological survey of the river and establishment of open green areas. Local schools may be helpful in carrying out baseline studies for some of these initiatives, and this will also increase awareness of the wildlife and natural amenities of the town.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good, with only a small amount of litter present on the day of adjudication. One litter bin was full and some others needed to be painted, but this can be catered for in a litter action plan which would set out the steps needed to achieve year round litter control.

Tidiness:

Overall tidiness levels were very good, and many unoccupied buildings looked tidy despite the fact that they are not in use. The recycling point was exceptionally tidy and clean - well done. However, the area beside the old gates near the Catholic Church needed attention. The school/hall and the area in front needed to be painted, weeded and generally tidied.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas were well cared for and tidy, and many of the private houses on the main street had attractive floral displays. The housing estate on the road to Lawrencetown was neat, the trees looked attractive and the grass was well cut.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance to Eyrecourt from Portumna looked well although parts of the footpath needed to be resurfaced. The junction between the Portumna and Lawrencetown roads could be improved by painting/replacing the boundary wall and litter bin on the corner. The approach road from Banagher was well kept and the line of tall trees was very attractive, although the footpaths could benefit from weeding and sweeping.

All signage for Eyrecourt was linked to a town twinning initiative. The entrance roads to the town would benefit from stone name signs which are of a more permanent nature. The area opposite, beside the old gates near the Catholic Church needs to be resurfaced. The footpaths near the Catholic Church were clean and neat, and the paving on the square was attractive.

General Impression:

I enjoyed my visit to Eyrecourt and the community obviously take pride in their town and are

anxious to develop it to its full potential. The IAP has some excellent initiatives regarding the natural environment, however it would be good to see what actions are planned to develop or restore the derelict buildings at the square.