

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oranmore**

Ref: **97**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **151**

Category: **C**

Date: **03/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	18	17
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	17	18
Tidiness	20	8	7
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	151	147

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry and map of the village. It is good to see that you have a large Tidy Towns committee and are working with the County Council and FAS. However, it is a pity that you did not take on board last year's recommendation to develop a simple 3 -5 year plan. This is a good way to set realistic goals for each year, and helps to motivate the committee and get the community on board.

The Built Environment:

Some business premises in the centre of the village looked well on the day of adjudication, while others needed freshening up. Premises such as The Moorings, Ti Gearoid, Mc Donaghs, Oranmore Travel, Bia Bla and Keanes looked well thanks to flower displays and good painting and/or signage. The Howley monument and railings were well kept which is important as they are located at a prominent position in the village. The Church looked well and the Tourist Office was freshly painted. It was good to see the old Church in use as a community facility.

Landscaping:

The flower beds at the stone name signs on all approach roads were well kept and colourful. The green area at the junction by the Shopping Centre really caught the eye thanks to the excellent

quality of landscaping and upkeep. There was also attractive landscaping and lighting in the carpark of the shopping centre. Both roundabouts have been extensively planted, but it is important that they are weeded on a more regular basis. The grounds of the Quality Hotel were also well landscaped. The village centre was brightened by some hanging baskets on the lamp posts, and there were colourful flowers at the Howley monument, although this area could also benefit from the addition of trees and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was good to see that you got local schoolchildren involved through the photography competition. This is a very good start.

Litter Control:

Although residential areas were litter free, the village centre was strewn with litter on both sides of the road. A number of litter bins were overflowing near the Church and at the bus stop near the Shopping Centre. There was also rubbish dumped at the bottle bank in the car park beside the playing field and in another corner of the car park. I realise it can be difficult to control and monitor litter in a fast growing village such as Oranmore, but an intensive awareness campaign and additional signage and litter bins could make a difference. It is also important that the bins are emptied on a regular basis.

Tidiness:

The area grounds of the Shopping Centre was tidy, including the recycling centre. In general, the areas outside business premises were tidy, although the area between Keanes and the garage could be tidied and weeded. Housing estates were generally tidy, although some of the newer estates were untidy due to builder's debris.

Residential Areas:

The entrances to some residential estates were very attractive, thanks to stone name plates, shrubs and flowers. Two of the newer estates, Costa na Mara and the new estate at the end of the Maree road stood out as the quality of landscaping at the entrance and throughout the estates was excellent. Other estates needed to ensure central green areas were well maintained and weeds on footpaths are regularly removed. The gardens and boundaries of some houses on the Maree road, Limerick road and old Galway road were also very attractive. Some houses in the village centre could do with repainting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads looked well thanks to stone name signs in beds of colourful flowers. There was a well kept stone wall on the right hand side as you enter Oranmore from the Dublin road roundabout. A number of areas could be resurfaced, including chard shoulder on the approach from the Dublin road roundabout and the car parking area opposite Pi Restaurant. The early section of the Maree road looked well with well kept grass verges and landscaping. However, further out on the Maree road the footpaths could be resurfaced and the stone walls repaired. The road surface on the junction from the Limerick road to the Maree road was badly in need of resurfacing.

General Impression:

Oranmore is a busy village growing at a tremendous pace. This can make it difficult to maintain standards. However, the village would benefit from an awareness campaign, starting with local school children, developers and new residents. It will be important to preserve as many green areas

as possible over the next few years as the village continues to develop. I wish you the best of luck, and we look forward to charting your progress over the coming years.