

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Aughagower**

Ref: **480**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **253**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	34	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	36	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	253	241

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the comprehensive documentation on your Tidy Towns activities. Welcome to the 2004 competition. Aghagower has a beautiful atmosphere of peace, set in the context of fifteen centuries of continuous worship in the village. Commercialism thankfully takes a lower role in Aghagower, and the history of the village speaks for itself.

Your Plans for 2003 - 2004 and onwards to 2007 have been noted. You are very wise to have a long term vision for your village. With the cooperation of the agencies that you work with hopefully this vision will be achieved in full. Stone walls are a fine feature of Aghagower and they help to link the village firmly into the beautiful surrounding countryside.

The Built Environment:

The old stone buildings that have been painted look well. Normally the adjudicator would not recommend the painting of old stone walls, but it works in your village. The village Hall will probably need re-painting for 2005, and attractive planting was noted here. You have treated the windows of the old School in an excellent fashion, pending the finding of a new use for the building. Hopefully a viable community use can be found before long. The old cottage on the Leenane road has been treated in a similar way to similar good effect. The re-cycling facility was excellently presented as was the car park. Good work is being done to maintain the two graveyards.

Landscaping:

The Garden of Remembrance was just one of the landscaped areas that looked really well. In this regard the picnic area also comes to mind, beside the small stream. The new small amenity area behind the Grotto has been sympathetically developed. Overall in landscaping terms you have paid great attention to detail.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The nature walk development is a great addition to your local amenities. Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the town area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication and only sporadic pieces of litter were noted. Your participation in the Mayo County Council competition is obviously a great help to you in terms of raising litter awareness in the village.

Tidiness:

The various speed limit sign poles should be painted black and there are a few field gates that will need your attention for 2005. Overall Aghagower was very tidy on adjudication day. Congratulations to everyone involved in this.

Residential Areas:

The annual Best Garden competition is an excellent way of encouraging private property owners to improve their gardens. Indeed the presentation of private property is of a high standard throughout. A number of new developments were noted, especially the larger new housing development on the Tourmakeedy road. Hopefully appropriate landscaping will be carried out as part of this development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside verges were well presented, but do make sure that cut grass is removed immediately after cutting. Stone walls are a fine feature of the approach roads. The street lights look well and generally fit in with the atmosphere of the village.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Aghagower and congratulations on all the good work that you have all done to date.

Second Round Adjudication:

The residents of Aghagower are indeed to be congratulated on the exceptional standard of most of the village. The stream side is particularly beautiful. In fact it was hard to find fault other than a few yards and outbuildings which were not up to standard. Hopefully the original roadside stone walls will be reinstated at the new construction sites. The road signs were the cleanest seen anywhere. One Leenaun sign however was almost obliterated by overgrowth. Litter again was not a problem – just a few kegs were stored at one gable. We look forward to returning next year.

