

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Claremorris**

Ref: **152**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **192**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/05/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. Your committee appears to have good local sponsorship and support. Thank you for your reports and pictures which were very interesting and helpful on adjudication day. The Plan 2002 - 2005 is hopefully helping to guide your work year by year. Presumably you will revise this Plan in 2005. You appear to have adopted a very good structure for your work and the appointment of specialist officers for each area of your work is an excellent idea. For planning purposes you have used an urban and residential divide that makes a lot of sense from an implementation point of view. However the Plan could be a little more detailed by indicating precisely what project will be implemented in a given year.

The Built Environment:

The shop front project should do much to encourage good shop front design. Modern design can be good on a shopfront provided that it does not clash with more traditional shop fronts nearby. Claremorris has a mix of older more traditional approaches to shop front design combined with some modern additions. The Gilligan shop front is modern, simple and clear and therefore effective. However in the view of the adjudicator the projecting sign might be examined. The built environment is given a sense of visual unity by the period buildings that survive, many with a common roof line, similar windows and other details. The Credit Union building is another building that catches the eye given it's prominent location. The adjudicator examined "The Goat" building and the facing is indeed appropriate. The St. John's Church Library development is an excellent new use

for an old building. The conversion has been carried out with skill and good taste. Well done to those involved. The built environment in Claremorris produces a good use of colour, as illustrated by some of the buildings in the Square.

Landscaping:

New landscaping projects on the Castlebar and Ballinrobe approach roads were visited and these look well. Perhaps there is potential for additional landscaping at the Swinford road junction off the Ballinrobe road. When you are creating new landscaping areas do keep the issue of on going maintenance in mind and adopt a design strategy that will reduce the required on going maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Clare Lake/McMahon Park is an excellent amenity well presented. The new signs here are effective and the tree labelling is a welcome development. It is noted that your research project on wildlife is completed and hopefully this will lead to further wildlife and natural amenity projects in the year ahead. A possible development of the survey might be the erection of some large well designed display boards in the town indicating the species of flora and fauna that are to be found in your area.

Litter Control:

The twelve new litter bins is a welcome additional to your litter control programme. Some litter was noted on the Tuam Road and sporadic litter in the main street, in the general area of the square and the railway cutting. Your clean up programme should be continued in the year ahead and you have wisely identified those areas that are in the most urgent need of your clean up activities.

Tidiness:

The storage/display of retail goods on the pavement was noted. This is a most unwelcome development for many reasons. Basically it is visually unattractive. However this can also cause problems for people in wheel chairs and for the visually impaired. You might consider painting the speed limit poles black. The area by the "Cash and Carry" on the Tuam Road needs attention and this was mentioned in the 2003 report also. The re-cycling station was neatly presented but the bins need to be washed or re-painted.

Residential Areas:

The majority of the residential areas looked well on adjudication day. Congratulations to The Lawn and Lúí na Greine - two worthy winners of the competition. At Claremont, a new estate, some finishing works are needed at the entrance off the main road. New housing development was noted in a number of locations including the Roscommon Road. Hopefully appropriate landscaping will be a feature of all new estate development in the Claremorris area. On the Castlebar Road some painting of road boundary walls adjoining private properties is necessary. Some fine period houses were noted on Convent Road near the Esso Service Station.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The work done on the main car park at the rear of the square has been most successful. Some landscaping potential was noted on the Ballinrobe approach road on the left hand side. The new landscaped development at the Brookhill area is simple yet visually very effective. On the Sligo Road some of the verges did not appear to have been cut recently in the area of the 30 MPH signs. Coming in from the Roscommon side the low planting here gives good ground cover but it lacks colour variety. In some areas the ground cover has been over taken by weed and grass growth. The slopes above this area are excellent areas for the needs of wildlife. The Castlebar approach is a fine

wide road, however weed growth was noted at some of the kerbs. No recent work was obvious on the Galway/Tuam road. The main street is a fine wide area and the square gives a nice character to the heart of the town.

General Impression:

Claremorris is an impressive town and your committee has made good progress and the influence of your committee is obvious. Congratulations to everyone involved and keep up the good work into 2005.