

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cong**

Ref: **171**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **193**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	30
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	193	187

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Cong to the Tidy Towns Competition 2004. This is a really charming village steeped in history in a most wonderful setting. You are working closely with FAS and the Local Authority and that is certainly the way to make good progress. Parking is indeed a problem in Cong and hopefully the ideas under discussion will work out eventually. Water, stone bridges, wildlife and heritage seem to dominate Cong and this is the major attraction of the village. Thank you for the detailed 3 Year Plan and really excellent maps that were so useful on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in Cong represent many different styles and ages, from the beautiful modern Church to the Courthouse of 1853 and then back in time to the time of the Abbey. The restoration project at St. Marys of the Rosary Church is noted and it is a beautiful Church. The whitewashed buildings in Abbey Street and Circular Road stand out and the public toilets were excellently presented. It would have been useful if a copy of the Heritage Trail could have been included with your documentation - perhaps for 2005. The entrance to the McGrath Quarry Group caught the idea with the beautiful old engine mounted at the entrance. The Quiet Man Pub and Coffee Shop are simple buildings in external design terms but highly effective in their front elevation. The yellow frontage at the Morrins property is perhaps too bright for the village and the lettering appears to be out of scale with the shop front.

Landscaping:

A number of attractive landscaped areas were noted on approach roads and for example along the Abbey wall. It would appear that some landscaping plans for 2004 have been moved on to a future year. Mature trees in some parts of the village were much admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Cong must be "heaven" for wildlife, yet surprisingly the adjudicator did not see any information plaques about the local wildlife. 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. The Heritage Talks and the lecture on Flora and Fauna was a great idea. It was rather disturbing, while admiring the ducks at the Duck Pond, to hear in the background what sounded like shooting from the woods - hopefully it was Clay Shooting.

Litter Control:

Litter control is one of the strong points of Cong. However on adjudication day litter was noted in the Duck Pond and on School Hill. Do keep up the twice weekly clean ups - an excellent initiative. Other than the two problem areas mentioned above litter control was quite good on adjudication day.

Tidiness:

Very untidy groups of advertising signs were noted on the Ballinrobe and Clonbur approach roads and also at the junction in front of the Market Cross. Could there be some agreement on coordination at each of these tree locations? Part of the grounds of the old Church were quite overgrown as seen from the Church Car Park. There are a number of projecting signs in Cong that are probably not really necessary from a commercial retail point of view.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas and individual houses were generally very neatly presented. Some fine landscaped private gardens were also noted. An excellent use of colour in several areas caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were well presented complimented in some instances by really fine old stone walls. On the Neale Road the verge on the left is becoming damaged in a few places by vehicles. Perhaps there is a need for some boundary between the verge and the road - for example kerbing!

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to visit Cong for adjudication purposes and the adjudicator wishes your Committee well in the future.