

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Louisburgh**

Ref: **461**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 National Tidy Towns Competition. The comprehensive documentation and maps provided for the adjudicator was most helpful. You have a very small committee of just seven people but you also appear to have significant local support, including support from the appropriate official bodies. The development of your new 3-5 year Plan is noted and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this document in future years. You appear to have an excellent vision of the future that you see for Louisburgh and your ideas for the main street area are excellent - surfacing, footpaths, wirescape etc. The Newsletter is an excellent idea and it does help to get the Tidy Towns Report into every house in the area. Thank you for the aerial photograph - it proved most useful on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

Your problem in regard to absent property owners is indeed a serious one and it is noted that about 53% of the property in Louisburgh is presently unoccupied. The Grotto is being well maintained and the Hall building using a good colour combination of black, white and grey looks fresh and attractive. The work carried out on the bridge is noted, but dead grass on both sides of the bridge should be removed. The Morrison's building awaits further development and hopefully this can start before the 2005 competition. Hopefully work will also start on the Harney's Garage property, now owned by Mayo County Council. Some attractive buildings were noted including Teach na Nol, the Convent and the Church. The Derrylahan property was also well presented and this is a good frontage. The R.

Lyons property is a simple yet very effective traditional shop-front that is being very well maintained by the owner.

Landscaping:

Planting at the Church and at bridge crossroads area was noted. The River Park area at Scott's Island was a disappointment. A lot of litter was noted here together with graffiti on some of the timber seating/tables. Long grass was noted here and a greater degree of ongoing maintenance is required for this amenity by the river bank. The planting on the Westport road looked well on adjudication day. The heather and grass beds here will look really well when they mature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two Blue Flag beaches in the area are a great amenity for local people and visitors alike. The proposed wildlife survey is strongly welcomed by the adjudicator and hopefully for the 2005 competition we will see the first steps taken on the implementation of the plan. As indicated above further work is needed on the riverside area.

Litter Control:

The painting of litter bins in the town is noted and they looked well. Your "Litter Picking Nights" is a great concept and it gets the community involved in this most important part of the competition. The study on re-cycling issues is important and hopefully it will have some major proposals for consideration. The re-cycling area was very poorly presented on adjudication day with dumped rubbish at the foot of the plastic bins. Can this area be screened from view? Some litter was noted in the river upstream of the bridge and also along the footpaths in Chapel Street.

Tidiness:

The waste collection negotiations are noted. The issue of local road signage appears to be a major problem. For example at the Leenane/Carramore road junction a total of sixteen different signs were seen. Can there be some rationalisation or standardisation of sign type here and elsewhere in Louisburgh? Two concrete buildings and a pile of stones was noted at the Carramore road junction. Some projecting signs were noted and in one instance a total of five on one building. At the Wash Tub the road boundary wall needs to be re-painted. The adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted here. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled. Signpost poles might be painted black or another suitable colour throughout the town.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates were visited and generally private property looked well. In some cases broken timber fencing needs to be repaired. An over use of weed killer was noted in a few estates. This browns the grass and it takes a long time for green grass to reappear. The housing estates competition is an excellent idea. At the Beeches brown timber fencing in need of re-painting was noted. The use of low stone walls at the Tuirlings is most attractive and this stone blends excellently with the local environment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have done a lot of work on the Westport approach road and it looks well, especially the green verges. Closer in by the houses the verge on the opposite side of the road could receive similar attention. The new fencing on the Leenane road is a great improvement but long grass needs to be cut here. On the Killeen approach road long grass at the verges did not appear to have been cut recently. Likewise on the Carramore approach road verges need attention. Some beautiful old wild roses were noted here along the roadside.

General Impression:

Louisburgh is a large area for your small hard working committee to cover. You have done excellent work in the past and your plans for the future seem to be very encouraging. Keep up the good work!