

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **The Neale**

Ref: **528**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	204	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns competition and the adjudicator thanks you for the documentation received. The 2004 - 2006 Tidy Towns Action Plan is a most useful document. When you are revising it at the end of 2004 it is suggested that you indicate in a little more detail the projects that you will undertake year by year. The adjudicator feels that there should be more support in the Neale for the work of Tidy Towns. Your work with the Local Authority and South West Mayo Development Company is most important. The major infrastructural works planned for 2005 are noted. You are very sensible to adopt heritage as your theme and then plans to build a Community Resource Centre with this theme is most interesting.

The Built Environment:

The stone wall opposite the School looks really well and the presentation of the School and grounds was really excellent. The new wall from the Hall to the Cemetery fits in well with the village. The painting of the Hall and other building has been well done. At the water pump the low stone wall surrounding this feature looks very well and helps to make an interesting feature of the old village pump. At the road junction the derelict property has been treated in an excellent manner making it the old "Post Office". However the pile of sand and the two large stones here need to be removed. It was nice to see two surviving thatched houses one (Gibbons) of which had interesting old signs on display. There is an attractive mix of building designs in The Neale that adds character to the village. At the Post Office the four projecting signs referred to in the 2003 report are still there and the shop

window is very cluttered with individual notices.

Landscaping:

Excellent landscaping is a very strong feature of The Neale. Perhaps the raised landscaped area at the 40 MPH Speed Limit sign on the Ballinrobe approach needs taller plants. The Garden area was beautifully presented as was the small landscaped area opposite the School. Very good private landscaping was noted at the "Lounge Bar". A neat small landscaped area was noted at the recycling centre that itself was very tidy. Great landscaping caught the eye opposite the telephone box and in the general area of the Handball Alley.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No work appears to have taken place on this aspect of the competition. 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:

The new litter bins look well and congratulations on your major success in the Mayo Anti Litter League. On adjudication day litter control was quite good and the daily litter checks are obviously working. It was a great idea to get the School involved in the Green Schools Programme. Some litter was noted at the back of the small car park at the recycling centre and on the Cong approach road at the speed limit signs.

Tidiness:

You might consider having the Speed Limit sign poles painted. Piles of earth and stone were noted by the new stone wall opposite the School. The adjudicator has taken the view that this is probably for landscaping in front of the new stone wall and you have not lost marks because of this.

Residential Areas:

Private houses were attractively presented and the bed & breakfast premises beyond the School had an excellently landscaped garden. In general watch out for road boundary walls that need to be painted on a more frequent basis than the house.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Ballinrobe approach road looked really well and a lot of work has obviously gone in this area. The stone wall here together with the excellent green verge areas makes this approach really impressive. On the approach from the School some work had been done closer to the main road but further back the verges were uncut. The Cong approach was well presented,

General Impression:

The Neale is a very attractive village that obviously has a very dedicated Tidy Towns Committee.