

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Navan**

Ref: **411**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **222**

Category: **F**

Date: **06/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	35	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	222	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your three year work programme seems quite sensible and you appear to be working your way comprehensively through it. You have set clear aims and objectives and indicated a timeframe against which all are to be implemented which is all highly commendable. However, you should really have supplied a map of the town indicating areas of importance, in terms of your work - both progress achieved to date and planned. Supplying a map is essential in order to aid adjudication, particularly in a town of Navan's size.

The Built Environment:

The main streets of the town are reasonably well maintained although a number of buildings were not presented to the highest of standards, appearing quite flaky to their façades. Do ensure that you discourage the use of curved canopies and projecting plastic signs. These should be replaced with items of a more traditional variety such as traditional fabric awnings and timber traditional signs. The adjudicator was pleased to note that rear areas and alleyways are being developed with small shops and cafes opening onto them. However a number of these will require further sophistication and attention to detail in the years to come. The attractive Catholic Church opening directly onto the main streets of the town, with its beautifully maintained grounds, adds greatly to the appearance of Navan. Attractive modern interventions such as Geoghan's on Railway Street and an attractive modern building on the Kells Road were greatly admired. In contrast, a number of traditional features, such as stone arched doorway, shows that Navan has a good interest in its fine

architectural heritage.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition in which you show an obvious relish! The park area by the riverside could be a most attractive feature and, although obvious enthusiasm has been shown here, it appears to have been neglected in recent times. An abandoned pile of railway sleepers, graffiti, weedy flower beds and some litter presented an unfortunate appearance. The large green painted manhole covers/access panels should be more successfully screened. This feature was also apparent on the boardwalk area of the Poolboy landscaped area to the riverside on the opposite bank. The stone gabions to the riverside area are an attractive modern solution and wildflowers are beginning to take form and shape in this location. The attractively landscaped area around the Town Hall was admired, as were the numerous hanging baskets throughout the streets. The car park area opposite the shopping centre is badly in need of some attention in terms of its landscaping - some new paving and trees would help soften its somewhat harsh effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside area is the obvious main attraction within the town of Navan, under this category of the competition. Wild flowers such as pink valerian has previously been mentioned to the stone gabions. Lily pads, rushes/reeds, etc. were apparent within the rushing waters. Do consult your Tidy Towns handbook and ENFO for further ideas in relation to this aspect of the competition. Involve local experts and local school children in order to perhaps research the wildlife habitats within their locality.

Litter Control:

Litter was reasonably well handled for a town of Navan's size. However, there were a number of problem areas, such as the park down by the riverside previously mentioned and the odd paper along the main streets of the town.

Tidiness:

Navan, generally, gave a neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day. Street furniture such as bollards and litter bins were being freshly painted in a stately maroon and gold colour. One or two older style litter bins looked quite shabby, however in comparison.

Residential Areas:

Do ensure that newer housing estates maintain the town's unique character. Perhaps organize some garden and estate competitions and try to involve local residents in maintaining their own open spaces etc.? Older houses throughout the town and along approach roads were generally well cared for. Of particular note, were the attractive houses and gardens along the Drogheda Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were generally well maintained on adjudication day. Roundabouts showed some attention to detail. The main streets were fine and the alleyways and smaller side streets have also been mentioned. Further detail to landscaping, paving, street furniture etc. in these locations will help to develop them as an exciting feature of the town. The car park area opposite the shopping centre has been mentioned elsewhere in this report.

General Impression:

Navan is a busy town with much development taking place. A lot has happened in relation to the

town's development and maintenance in recent times and more is to be achieved. It has the air of a town that is well cared for by its inhabitants - well done to all concerned!