

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubber**

Ref: **405**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **233**

Category: **A**

Date: **15/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	233	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for an excellent submission with attractive illustrations. Don't be surprised at the necessity for voluntary labour: the whole Tidy Towns concept is based on community effort and you should not be too dependent on FÁS schemes. When they come they then become a bonus. That said, FÁS has served you well in recent years and much of the work carried out is of a permanent nature and will further enhance with the passing of time. The photographic illustrations are of a high quality.

The Built Environment:

Like most centres you are experiencing an enormous amount of house building and this augurs well for the welfare of Tubber. Public buildings are well presented and the church and school are important buildings looking well. Commercial buildings are well presented and some have high attractive colour. Tubber GAA complex is the best in the county and reflects great credit on the authorities. The wall screening here is excellent.

Landscaping:

This is your strong point and can only be described as superb. The long approach from Clara is quite

impressive and colourful. You also have to contend with such constant traffic, all too often not conducive to tree planting. Your excellent array of trees, shrubs, hedge variety and flowers combine to present an air of welcome. In particular the inordinate amount of grass cutting is demanding on time and energy, so we commend you. On an individual basis, Rose Garden is excellent and award-winning also. Parklands is a wonderful approach to the village and the walk from the GAA is praiseworthy. When time and finance permits we suggest a piece of sculpture for this site. One that would reflect the history and heritage of the area: it would be spectacular on this important location.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have ample opportunity to promote wildlife in view of the great amount of landscaping in and around the village. Planting of appropriate hedge species will provide food supply for wild birds in the autumn. You should also embark on a survey of local wildlife species'

Litter Control:

The village does not seem to have a litter problem and control was good on adjudication day. Litter is everybody's business and people seem to be responding to your efforts.

Tidiness:

Your problems in this section relate to unfinished developments and we urge developers to finish well in house buildings in particular. There are problems with areas between house boundary walls and roadside needing attention. Rubble left around after development also looks untidy. We look forward to the completion of the house beside The Rose garden and to appropriate landscaping.

Residential Areas:

Houses looked well and many have well developed gardens. The use of stone walls is commendable and provides a maintenance free development. When augmented with tree planting and grassed areas stone walls can be much improved in appearance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some road surfaces are below standard and this is a job for Offaly Co.Council to improve. This adjudicator was impressed with the design and presentation of the series of village name signs. How appropriate too for the 'tobar' design: well done. Of course the two main approaches have excellent road surface, but the side roads and open areas fronting the school, church and other areas need improvement.

General Impression:

A real delight for this adjudicator making a first adjudication of Tubber. We commend you for your commitment and prudent planning for the future. Your challenge now is to attend to detail and get those not fully committed backing you. Good luck for 2005