

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Garrykennedy**

Ref: **518**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **255**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	255	254

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thanks for the detailed entry form and the map of the greater Garrykennedy area, it meant that the adjudicator was able to identify focal areas more easily.

The plan alluded to in last years report was not included with this years entry form, but the adjudicator assumes that it was a 3 year plan with achievable goals and a time frame for completion of these goals.

The level of cooperation from the wider Garrykennedy community is to be admired and residents obviously have immense pride in their village.

Also the level of sponsorship from individuals and clubs would be the envy of most other villages or towns.

It was noted that lobbying of the Council to do required work is ongoing, positive persistence always pays off.

The Built Environment:

There were many positives in this category most notable being the provision of upgraded lighting and the excellent standard of presentation of premises both public and private.

The Harbour, is as indicated, very much an amenity harbour judging by the number of private boats moored there.

The access board walk has been reinforced and there was a new entrance path to the berthing area under construction on adjudication day.

The following businesses deserve mention for the manner in which they were presented, "Larkins" and "Ciss Ryans Pubs" both of which retain that rural village pub look. Private residences such as Riannadoir Cottage and Pakies Cottage were also well presented. A planning permission notice was observed on an old traditional house, it is hoped that any refurbishment that takes place will blend in with the existing village architecture and streetscape. On the negative side the hoarding at the castle area was tardy and the County Council at the very least should have it re painted in it original safety colours of black and amber- probably a bit alien to Tipp people!! Also the public toilets were not fully operational as the gents was padlocked.

Landscaping:

The planting of new trees in the green area and in the impressive Forest Walk was noted. Reference was made in previous reports to the possibility of softening up the core area around the car park with tubs of shrubs and flowers. The existing tubs on the Marina shore need to be repainted and in some instances refilled with foliage and flowers. A few forlorn nasturtiums, who no doubt will multiply in time, is all that was to be seen. A number of seats and picnic benches dotted around the village need to be repainted. Some private gardens were very much admired and there was a pleasant abundance of flowers such as rock lobelia visible.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Garrykennedy has some fine natural habitats aside from the actual lake. Large numbers of ducks were observed on the lake shore and the little island just off it. The Forest Walk is a haven for all forms of insect and bird life, plants in abundance attract wildlife. There seems to be a proliferation of Boston Fern in the forest area, maybe this might cut back as it can be a toxic plant.

Litter Control:

It should be relatively easy to control litter in the Village as it has no obvious attractors such as mobile chippers and take away shops. Having said that it witnesses a large increase in the transient population during the high tourist season. It could do with a additional waste bin or two to cater for this increase. Overall there were only minute particles of wrappers and other litter to be seen, principally near the castle area.

Tidiness:

Tidiness encompasses a number of other items outside the actual accepted definition, these include weed growth at kerbsides, farm related activity waste, fly posting and graffiti. It is good to see that the Committee has encouraged locals to take ownership of looking after immediate areas near their properties. On the day the Village was orderly and tidiness was to an acceptable standard. The only area that needs attention is the area around the Castle- keep lobbying the County Council via local representatives to have safety hoardings made good.

Residential Areas:

The village is really the main residential area, aside from holiday properties which are not occupied on a year round basis. The standard in this category was very good and the efforts to camouflage unoccupied properties is

to be lauded.

There were a good number of impressive and well maintained properties both in the village and on the outskirts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Portroe entrance was maintained to an acceptable standard but the sign for the prestigious Tidy Towns Bronze Medal was obscured by overgrowth near the stone wall.

This should be rectified as this is the main entrance to the village

Foliage on hedgerows encourages wildlife and there was some nice wild rose to be seen on this entrance.

The Lough Derg Way road, while narrow, was well maintained and cut back effectively.

General Impression:

Garrykennedy is a strong performer in the Tidy Towns Competition and one can see why.

The Committee, which at eleven is quite large for a place its size, actively encourages people to take ownership of both tasks and indeed contentious issues.

Keep up the excellent work it only stimulates further activity.

Second Round Adjudication:

At second adjudication Garrykennedy was being well used with very many people availing of the lovely waterside and harbour area. The development of the new Marina will be interesting to follow as will the other developments planned as per signboard in the village. The picnic and grassed areas by the shore side are very attractive. The weed control by chemical application by the base of seats, walls, rocks and kerbs could be more neatly applied. Some small amounts of litter were noted and the litterbin was full to capacity at early afternoon. The two oak trees are struggling and the unfortunate die back of the ivy at Ciss Ryans pub is a sad loss. The Forrest walk is very attractive and gives a lovely opportunity for nature appreciation. The planters in the village are under utilised as stated above..