

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lorrha**

Ref: **77**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	28	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	
General Impression	10	7	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the detailed application form, action plan and sketch map of the village. All were much appreciated by this adjudicator a first time visitor to this pleasant rural village.

It is good to see such interactive community cooperation amongst various parish groups.

The improvements, by virtue of the Village Renewal Scheme, have enhanced the village and its environs.

The local maps boards, provided by the Local Authority, are a very worthwhile addition as they make visitors aware of the surrounding towns lands and other landmarks associated with the Parish

Personally I think that the addition of new housing developments will be a bonus for the community in general.

The Committee deserve praise for ongoing monitoring of activities.

### The Built Environment:

The principle active public buildings Church, National School, Garda Station and St Ruadhains Community Centre were well presented and are examples of good basic maintenance. The Graveyard is in excellent shape and a credit to its caretaker.

A small number of premises were in a derelict state and unfortunately these were within the village centre.

The adjudicator also noted that a number of cottages and a historic two room school on the Lacken

Castle Road that were boarded up

It is a pity that these were not considered for refurbishment under the Village Renewal Scheme. The additional new housing development will blend in with the Village Streetscape and help to revitalise the core area.

The following premises were noted for good presentation Maher's XI Stop and Shop, Belview Cottage and two newly restored private residences in the centre of the Village.

### **Landscaping:**

The provision of heather beds on the Birr Road is a welcome addition to the more traditional type of flower bed usually seen.

A number of beds had a good mix of shrubs and annuals such as pansies and sweet william but in some instances needed to be tinned out.

The Committee is to be commended for making provision for Spring planting as it shows commitment to all year round effort.

The stone beds provided are in keeping with the architecture of the village.

Consideration in the future should be given to the planting of trees that would have an association with the local area.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The provision of nesting boxes is to be welcomed but further efforts should be made to develop a long term Wildlife Programme for Lorrha.

The emphasis should be on the conservation and the enhancement of various wildlife habitats in the area.

It would be worthwhile to talk to a local wildlife enthusiast who may be in a position to advise on how to go about drawing up such a programme.

### **Litter Control:**

There was some litter to be seen in the Village centre and on the outskirts on adjudication day, but it is good to note that the volunteer rotas are in place to try and ensure that there is ongoing litter collection.

The overall plan for litter control should include a basic education initiative for the local school as the pupils of today are the adults of the future.

### **Tidiness:**

Overall the standard was quite good except for some wilted weeds at verges that need to be cleaned up. Civic spirit should prevail in these circumstances and local residents should not wait for the Council to do what in effect can be done with the minimum of effort by home owners

The area around the Ave Maria Grotto needs to be weeded also.

It is hoped that all candidates in recent elections will remove posters asap as they are now becoming unsightly due to "fading".

Otherwise an acceptable effort by all residents.

### **Residential Areas:**

Pairc Na Sile has a nice entrance with rock sign, mature copper beeches lining the area and some well presented gardens.

It was nice to see some wild fuschia in evidence.

One or two back gardens need to be a little tidier.

The new housing development in progress in the village centre will be a bonus to Lorrha.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The excellent entrance from Borrisokane is not helped by the proliferation of Telephone wires criss crossing the road.

The bog oak in the shrub beds a novel idea and there was an obvious improvement in an area near the Dominican commented upon by last years adjudicator.

The Birr entrance enhanced by the newly planted heathers,these need to be protected from the residue thrown up by passing traffic.

The Portumna entrance was also very acceptable with a nice selection of indigenous trees plus shrubs and flowers planted by individual property owners.

Some back entrances were a little tatty and took away from the overall look.

### **General Impression:**

The Committee has worked hard at introducing residents to the Tidy Towns ethos.

As stated in 2003 adjudication report it can be very difficult to keep enthusiasm going for what in effect is very much a voluntary effort.

The committee deserves credit and Lorrha has benefited from the ongoing support of the wider community to Tidy Towns.