

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finea**

Ref: **321**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **217**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	31	34
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>220</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Finea is a village with lots of potential to do well in the competition. As mentioned in last year's report a development plan is essential to focus the committee and wider community. It could also be a useful means of communicating the longer term plans for the village to relevant interests. e.g. County Council, Schools etc. and might help to encourage more support for the committee.

### The Built Environment:

As last year the buildings on main street are generally very well presented. Ledwiths and Addis Rock and the Post Office looked particularly well. The work taking place at the Crumb Factory had been creatively screened by boards painted with themed cartoon characters. The old National School needs repainting. The cemetery just outside the village is well maintained, as is the immediate Church yard area.

### Landscaping:

The pump looks really well and is located in a focal part of the village. There are nice flower beds on arrival - particularly under some of the trees. The Bridge is an asset of enormous potential and could be made really attractive with some weed control and the addition of wild flora. The bank areas on both sides of the Bridge are disappointing, again plenty of potential for improvement here.

As previously suggested, a themed approach to planting would really help in linking all aspects of the village together.

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

The Picnic area is in need of attention. On the day of inspection it was such a shame to see the serious litter problem here. The dumping of old bikes/toys in the shaded bank area on the right bank of the bridge detracted greatly from this area. Lough Sheelin bank area overgrown. It really is a pity to see what could be such an asset neglected

### **Litter Control:**

On the day of inspection the bins were overflowing - there was also a lot of dumping by the bins, particularly in the picnic area. The recycling bins by the Church were a disaster with bags and bags of rubbish piled beside it. The yield sign had obviously been knocked down. There were also bags of rubbish dumped by Lough Sheelin.

### **Tidiness:**

The village is a combination of very well kept areas and black spots. Litter is clearly a big issue and will need to be addressed. Perhaps more bins in the picnic area? Are local children and residents involved in any anti litter campaigns with the committee? Is the local school involved in the Green Flag, An Taisce competition? This is often an excellent way of creating an awareness with children.

### **Residential Areas:**

In general, all residential areas were well maintained and most houses had nice hanging baskets. Houses on the main street are very well presented and nicely painted. Finea Housing Scheme is very well presented. The nicely painted houses and their lovely floral displays are a credit to the residents. The green area here, however did need mowing.

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

The approach road from Castlepollard was very well maintained. The sign on the Cavan road needs replacing. Grass margins are very overgrown by the Church and are very much in need of attention. Where grass has been cut it should be collected, as it can look very untidy.

### **General Impression:**

Unfortunately Finea had disimproved in some areas - for a village with such potential to do well in the competition it is a shame to see the excessive amount of litter, overgrown grass margins, etc. all of which detract from the overall impression.