

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughnavalley**

Ref: **661**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **166**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	166	164

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to tidy towns 2004 and for all your work during the year. Loughnavalley continues to improve its presentation and your work, particularly the planting of trees along the Mullingar and Castletown roads and changes to the beds around the cross roads has created an interesting village focal point. Your interest in the long term success is being built on some excellent foundations .

The Built Environment:

In general, the roadside walls throughout Loughnavalley are of old stone, are well maintained and form village linkage. The planters of flowers which feature at a number of points add colour to village presentation. Fox's window box dressings, potted flowers/shrubs and old petrol pumps are colourfully supported with flower boxes. The Antiques business premises on the opposite side is very attractively presented with shrubs, flower boxes and antique furnishings. The stone faced Scoil Leaghan na Bhealaigh has been restored under the LEADER programme. It is dressed with hanging baskets and looks very well. The church, which is central to the village was very clean and tidily presented. You have some specific building difficulties which are referred to in your application which no doubt will be resolved in due course.

Landscaping:

The cross roads forms the village centrepiece, each corner presenting interesting features, the attractively coloured William Fox's, the blue and white Antiques residence/business premise, and its fine array of shrubs and flowers, the 2000 millennium garden, and the seated grass verge on the Ballinacargy/Mullingar corner. The millennium memorial sphere erected on a nice plinth of flowers contains an interesting and informative plaque. This area is supported by well maintained loose stone path, grass verge and hanging basket. The main church car park is well maintained and quite a number of new trees have been planted in this area which is well framed at one end by a selection of 6 mature conifer trees. Opposite Schoil Leaghan na Bhealaigh side the recently planted bed along and its water feature should play its part in generating interest in wildlife attractions of the area. Wirescape is not a major problem.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The graveyard looks well maintained with fine old trees. The growth of hedgerows on the outskirts of the village allows wild habitats to flourish and adds to the natural attractions of the surrounding countryside. You should encourage your school to undertake a wildlife survey of the natural flora and fauna in your area.

Litter Control:

Overall, the village was very clean and litter did not appear significant problem in Loughnavally. The main road is quite busy with traffic and no doubt this creates its own litter problem.

Tidiness:

Some construction work is ongoing to the left rear of the national school building,. There is an unattractive portacabin structure in this area. The garden to front is not well maintained and had uncollected clippings and some loose overgrown bricks. To the right of the approach from Ballinacargy is what appears to be an abandoned road construction machine which should be removed to a more suitable storage area. Good to see the 4 re-cycling bins in the car park area.

Residential Areas:

On the Athlone side of the village lie most of the village residences. Private houses and gardens are well maintained with attractive gardens, hedges and flower boxes. In general, the standard of housing is high.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mullingar approach to Loughnavally is quite attractive. The verges have been cut, and to the left there is an excellent loose stone footpath presentation between the laurel hedge boundary and the grass roadside verge. To the right the seating amenity is set in a well maintained verge. These are nicely dressed with new tree plantations, floral displays and hanging baskets. The Athlone approach has a fine selection of mature trees and hedging and is idyllic wildlife habitat. The approach from the Ballynacarrigy road starting from the attractive wall at the Granite Barn Candle Design features a fine variety of mature trees and hedgerows. The link fence near the Loughnavally sign should be camouflaged with suitable hedging. The car park opposite the church has cotoneaster screened wall and planters of colourful plants and flowers at each end.

General Impression:

Loughnavally is commended for its efforts. The village is attractively presented and residences for the most part well maintained. The village gives the impression of an active group which is prepared to work for the common good of the community. Well done.

