

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tyrrellspass**

Ref: **286**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **245**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	35	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	245	244

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application and the Tyrrellspass Village Enhancement Plan 2004 – 2008, along with the Tyrrellspass Village Design Statement. These complementary reports are ground breaking references for signposting the future development of Tyrrellspass and your committee is congratulated on their publication. There is no doubt Tyrrellspass has grasped the opportunity to address the challenges raised by the imminent arrival of the new motorway which will bypass the village and remove the high levels of through traffic.

The Built Environment:

The Methodist Church and Georgian houses surrounding the square provide an idyllic background to this village centrepiece. The combination of the first view of the church spire and the presentation of the approach verges raises expectations of village attractions and services. The introduction of stone walls along with a small water pump feature further confirms community activity. The bell tower/clock house is a delight. The Village Inn Hotel is attractively decorated with a profusion of shrubs, window boxes and creepers. However the corrugated roof at its right extremity is disappointing and paintwork at its left front corner needs attention. Equally, the corrugated roof of the building at the Dublin end of the square, while somewhat hidden by trees is not in keeping with the green's ambience. The front curtilage of St. Patricks Hall is loose stone, the building painted, and in front four tubs of plants. James Carroll Car Sales and service station is cleanly presented with a well kept planter fronting onto the road side. Bradleys shop has a traditional pub shop front and is

well maintained with window boxes but it is currently 'for letting' and not open for business. It's windows are white washed out. The school yard is well presented with shrubs along its yard walls, shrub tubs at its entrance, and honeysuckle growing on its gable end. The wall along the left side of the yard is partly stone and partly concrete. Byrnes Drapery and the small Post Office look well. Almost all the houses and shops along the main street from Byrnes Drapery west displayed window boxes or flower tubs. The Medical Hall has a fine modern shop front in traditional style with black wood painting and three dimensional gold lettering. It looks very well and is in keeping with the general village architectural style. Gonou's pub in particular took the eye, with its traditional frontage, dressed with window boxes. Rosemaries Salon was also one to note as it is a fine example of traditional shop front. The presentation of Cita Interiors (the old Midland Motors premises) could be improved. Tyrrellspass Castle looks very well, its car park tidy and displaying a colourful bed of plants. The stone planter across its frontage could do with additional maintenance. The stone wall along the right hand side of the Rahugh road leads to the Catholic Church. The Church is well presented although repair work to the right wall leading up the church avenue needs repair. The bell tower requires painting. Ryan's Garage is unusual in that its kerbside petrol pumps and footpath with goods display is very traditional and interesting. The GAA Club premises looks well.

Landscaping:

As expected, the village green is very well presented with generous supply of seats, and amenity points including the central pump feature, groups of maturing trees and sculptures. The approach from Mullingar has well maintained verges and some interesting roadside items including a free standing water pump and stone gate pillars to the left with their traditional conical caps in place. The approach from the battle field sign on the Athlone side looks well with maintained verges both right and left and with the background alternating from stone walls to fencing. Close to the traffic calming facility there is some unattractive fencing on the left. There is a fine garden and extensive grass area on right hand side from Kilbeggan Road and excellent views over the surrounding countryside. At the Rahugh Road junction there is a colourful rose bed. Bethany Nursing home looks well with its mature gardens and stone wall/shrub frontage. There is a nice open grass area at Castle Green with seating, plants and trees and trimmed lawn. The planter in the green beside the hotel is very colourful. The curtilage beside Kates Take away could be improved. The wall repairs have been completed along the road close to the Orphanage.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Beside St. Patricks Hall is a pleasant wild life and picnic area which gives some respite from the almost intolerable levels of traffic movement through the village. The committee's work in attending to the wildlife needs of the area is commended. The list of animals and birds is as amazing as it is impressive and underscores the habitat value of the surrounding countryside.

Litter Control:

There is virtually no litter. There is an excellent placement of litter bins. The map in the feature beside the Barrack tree could be cleaned up and while there is a virtual absence of litter, there was an incident of litter along the low stone wall at the corner of the green.

Tidiness:

Happily the village does not suffer from wirescape. At the same time, the large public lighting standards are not in keeping with the village ambience. A little untidiness with cars on the hard shoulder outside a car sales yard on the Kilbeggan road side. Wirescape across the road at the Rahugh corner is noticeable for its uniqueness, but should be put underground. The garage door and its attached small house at the left entrance to Shermount Court and the house/wall to the right of the entrance require attention. Nice to see the four recycling bins on the Mullingar road, but not the garden waste dumped beside them.

Residential Areas:

On the Mullingar road, Riverdale, is an attractive row of well kept row of bungalows set behind a cut verge and stone wall, and on both sides of the road are houses with mature gardens and frontages. Shermount Court is a small 2/3 bedroomed townhouse cul de sac development which, though unfinished, appears to have a high grade finish in its 'public' areas with shrub beds and lawn areas prepared. Sherwell is another if more mature townhouse development, and it is presented well with cut lawns, and hanging baskets on walls. The run of houses along the Rahugh road look very well and are nicely set behind a low wall with series of copper beech trees in car park islands. The run of single storey houses on the right hand at Ryans Garage side look well. Belvedere Court is nicely presented. Castle green is a nice well kept estate with lawn frontage and maturing trees.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mullingar approach road surface is good. The Tyrrellspass sign is nicely placed on a small grass verge to the left, but behind and partly hidden by the Tyrrellspass sign is the historic battlefield sign. Heading up towards the village the road is good, bordered on both sides with stone walls and cut grass verge. From the Dublin Road side, the first indication of a special 'tidy' village is met just after the road calming sign. There are fine plantations of shrubs and well kept walls and margins. On the right hand side there is timber fencing against which shrubs have now been planted to provide screening. There are well maintained grass verges on either side of the Rahugh corner and the nearby graveyard is neat and tidy.

General Impression:

The planning for the future development of Tyrrellspass is impressive and its implementation eagerly awaited. It is an exciting time for the village and its return of ownership to its community after years of dealing with high levels of national through-traffic is most welcome indeed. There is a very full programme to be carried out over the next four years; the best of luck in your endeavours!

Second Round Adjudication:

Tyrrellspass has indeed a challenging time ahead as presented by the proposed by-pass, the new five year plan and the village design statement. The approach roads generally looked well with the Dublin Road looking best. The Mullingar Road is gradually improving but weedy roadsides were here and there a little problematic. Litter again was not a significant problem but the general area of the on going residential development past Belvedere Court was badly littered and with prolific weeds looked unkempt. The carpark with heaps of sand / gravel at the castle was disappointing. Attention to floral adornments and maintaining buildings was evident throughout. The magnificent green and classically elegant buildings were admired as usual.