

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Roundwood**

Ref: **28**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **216**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	38
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	16
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	17	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

The map and additional information submitted with the entry form were very helpful at adjudication time. This gives a very good indication of the work of the tidy towns committee in Roundwood. The need for a number of projects to be completed by the council is obvious and constantly requesting such work is an important part of tidy towns activities. Traffic and parking appear to be troublesome and perhaps if parking were permitted on one side only of the road through the village it would be helpful. A three to five year plan would be needed at this stage as this would list the aims, prioritise them, apply a time scale and assess resources.

The Built Environment:

The business premises through the village look very well. The Roundwood Inn and Coach Houses make an attractive entrance to the village. The many business premises along the roadside are well painted and appear very crisp and fresh. The Church is particularly attractive and creates an imposing landmark in the village. The railings – well painted, and the wall and pebble drive are lovely – this must look spectacular by night when floodlit. The building opposite Kavanagh's and also work at building on the left exit for Laragh are weak points of the built environment – hopefully each of these will be resolved soon. The Community centre will look better when painted – perhaps more could be done with the surrounds. The new school building looks very well, the old school buildings forms an important element of the traditional buildings in the village. There are a small number of walls and gable ends that need attention to painting. The planned work on the toilets is noted.

Landscaping:

The Sinnotts Corner site has been improved somewhat and forms a pleasant place to rest a while. The planting in the timber surrounded kerbs looks well. The verges of this area and other similar areas are troubled by damage from motorists or trucks. Firm kerbing would be helpful here. – Mention of this is noted from your submission. The island border at the Sallygap junction has some borders with timber surround, which look well, others without timber surround need rejuvenation. Container planting through the village is very colourful and gives a great boost of summer colour all along the village area, a few containers by the Laragh exit look a little sad. The mature stand of beech trees along the roadside have great character and illustrate the importance of such trees- these were planted by previous generations who could never hope to see them in their fine state today – we owe a similar legacy to future generations and anywhere there is opportunity for such planting it should be done. Some street side trees opposite the Church need attention. Gardens contribute well to the roadside appearance of the village and good credit is due to the efforts of people for this. The maintenance of the grass bank at Kavanagh's is a good feature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Sli na Slainte sign was noted. The introduction of this walk is a very positive move and welcome. Involvements with school children in the preparation of material for presentation on the walk is an ideal project as it combines an awareness activity for school children and will promote an appreciation of the natural environment for using the walk. We look forward to more information and progress on this

Litter Control:

There is a good level of litter control in the village and the recycle bins were noted. Some small amounts of litter were spotted. Roadside cleaning was in progress at adjudication time and appeared very thorough. The awareness programmes are very helpful in this regard.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance. This is helped by the compact nature of the buildings in the village. The couple of buildings referred to above that need attention together with a few walls that need painting are noted here. Underground cabling in the main area is a great advantage and gives a lovely clear view along the village. Work along the footpaths of keeping ivy on the walls neat also helps.

Residential Areas:

The Vartry Heights estate is being disrupted very much at present with the building work and this is causing disturbance along the road through the estate. Hopefully when all the work is completed a rejuvenation of the area will occur. A number of house boundaries need attention and the care and maintenance of each individual home is important in the overall context.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface through the village is good and footpaths have been improved somewhat over the years. Road markings are good. The entry to the village is attractive and the compact nature of the village ensures that the natural countryside is retained in a good state. Grass verges along approaching the Roundwood Inn are well cared for. The treatment of the natural stonewalls along roadsides is attractive.

General Impression:

Roundwood makes a very good appearance impact and the standard of business premises makes for a very attractive village. The surrounding countryside is an additional factor in the appearance of the village. Traffic and parking are two factors that need attention.