

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Connolly**

Ref: **57**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **194**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	194

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Meitheal/Connolly Tidy Village committee is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. We note that your Committee has been reduced to four this year. We suggest that efforts be made to encourage more residents to join the committee, as there is a tremendous amount of work for such a small group, and the whole community benefits from your efforts. We again ask you prepare a one page Development Plan to focus on your aims for the development of the village for next three years.

The Built Environment:

The Church is a very fine building, but the planters are out of scale with the building. The Post Office and adjoining dwelling are very well presented as was McGrath's Express Shop and Garage. The School was in pristine condition.

Landscaping:

There are some fine young oak trees but planted quite close together and poorly staked. Every second tree could be removed and replanted in another green area in the village, and they could be improved by removing the growth and weeds at the base of each tree. The green areas, which are very uneven, had been cut recently and rather haphazardly.

The window boxes in the School were very well planted. There are a great number of planters, of varying shapes and sizes, throughout the village. These appeared to have been recently planted with very poor quality bedding plants. The circular raised stone beds were looking tired with weeds growing up through the plants. Perhaps the committee would consider replacing the old soil in these and replant them with fresh, healthy low-growing shrubs - heather or lavender - edged with bedding plants for summer colour. Your Handbook will be of assistance in the choice of suitable plants.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hedgerow at either end of the village was full of lovely wild plants – monbretia, foxgloves, ragged robin, buttercups and ferns. There is an opportunity for the planting of a wildflower meadow in the field opposite the school. Perhaps this is a project that could be adopted by the school children with, of course, the agreement of the proprietor of the land.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication the litter bins were full. Unfortunately, there was quite an amount of litter strewn along and through the hedgerow and also on the green areas. The placement of a few extra bins could help improve litter control.

Tidiness:

Weed-control had started but greater control of the spraying would help with tidiness. There is a fine path running through most of the village but the edges were full of weeds. Weeds were also noted at the base of the stone walls. The pavement and steps down to O'Boyle Food Store needs improvement.

Residential Areas:

There are some very fine private dwellings with very nicely landscaped gardens. The two-story dwelling beside Carney's Bar is a very fine building but needs painting. Unfortunately, there is still the problem house in the village, a situation that seems to have worsened, but as you have no control over this situation it will not affect the marking in this category. The housing estate is in good condition with no litter visible.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road sign at the Ennis approach was clean with plants at base, but the sign at the other end of the village was in poor condition. The area around Carney's Bar could be improved by the relocation of the kegs and gas cylinders, and also the removal of the broken kerbs in the car park. The area with the heaps of gravel and cream/red painted weed-covered shed needs attention. Suggest the Mid Clare Map be relocated to a hard surface area making it easier for visitors to study, as in its present location it can really only be seen by visitors travelling from the Ennis approach.

General Impression:

Overall the village appeared less well maintained this year. Being located on the Mid Clare Walking route can only be of benefit to everyone, visitors and locals alike, so we would ask you you to keep working, seeking help from as many residents as possible. Connolly is an attractive village set in wonderful surroundings and we would encourage you to continue working to improve your standing in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

