

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knock**

Ref: **430**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **212**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	30	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	202

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee of ten are to be congratulated on continuing the work started last year in Knock. Thank you for your entry form and ancillary documentation. However, the map again was a little difficult to follow and did not show clearly the location one of your successes – the Lime Kiln. The other information was all helpful to the adjudicator. The entry was submitted in the name of Knock/Kilmurry McMahan but as no information was received on Kilmurry /McMahan we presume this was to differentiate the County Clare Knock from any others. We would suggest that you consider (if you have not already done so) entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental initiatives and County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in and around Knock was mainly well presented. The well built stone walls enhance the approach roads to the village. The restoration of the Lime Kiln is a considerable achievement. However, it was not clear if access to it is public as yet. The fact that you researched the type of lime to be used in this project and had it delivered from Cork together with its original stone shows commitment to ensuring the authenticity of the project. The area where the Kiln is situated is a pleasant little valley with a stream running through it and this area could be further

developed.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on the approach roads has matured from last year and this improves the whole aspect of same. The two piers were looking well and the driftwood which was not in place last year was admired. We would suggest that the large piece with the tentacles be your main feature here and that the other piece which is in the log shape perhaps be placed upright in a flower bed to give it more emphasis. The seat near the telephone box needs to be painted and the broken pane of glass in the latter (mentioned last year) repaired. The wooden flower containers along the estuary wall were rather weather beaten as the quite robust weather which the flowers would experience in that situation does not seem to suit some of them. One of the excellent features of Knock is the fact that you are on the Shannon estuary and there are such wonderful views. The flower boxes are a distraction from this vista where they are situated at present. As mentioned last year, the wooden boxes themselves are very appropriate and perhaps some of these could be used in areas where plastic containers are still being used at the bases of walls or in other suitable locations.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The trees and the planting of flowers etc around the village will all retain the natural habitats for local flora and fauna. The wild flowers which you plan to sow on the banks around the car park at the Fisherman's Hut will also be appropriate in that area. The fact that you have your own flower tunnels in which to propagate the seeds is also in the spirit of this competition.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen around the village. Well done to the residents who monitor this situation on a daily basis.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately your biggest problem is the wreck of the Metabruce at Knock Pier which is still unresolved. However, the fact you are in communication with Clare County Council on this matter and that you have heard from them last March means that action is being taken by the Committee to try and solve this problem. Until they reply to you there is nothing you can do and no doubt you will be continuing to put pressure on them to respond.

Residential Areas:

Residences in the village are well maintained and obviously have a pride in Knock and a commitment to same.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Knock is one of the villages that travellers pass through on their way to the Shannon Ferry. The work you have undertaken will brighten their journey and hopefully encourage them to stop and sample more of the village.

General Impression:

The commitment of the Knock Committee is impressive - especially in regard to the heritage and history of the whole area. We look forward to seeing continuing progress in the years ahead.