

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caltra**

Ref: **202**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **223**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

This adjudicator had not visited Caltra since the first year of your entry into the Tidy Towns Competition and so was much impressed by the several improvements. Progress may have seemed slow to the Community Council, but to the outside observer it has been remarkable. There was no map enclosed with your entry: a map is essential, and you may be due additional marking on account of the adjudicator missing some features, but it is hoped this has not been the case.

The Built Environment:

The biggest change since this adjudicator's last visit has been the corner of the main street and the church road which has been improved beyond recognition. This building respects the nature of the location and is also in keeping with the scale of the older village houses while presenting a distinctively modern face. (One wishes that such an imaginative development would be the norm in other centres.) The Church was looking very bright in its attractive surroundings. The School, at some remove from the village, was well kept at the date of adjudication.

Landscaping:

The very fine graveyard with its splendid yews was also really trim at the date of adjudication. The Ward obelisk and the ancient Carmelite font are probably only two of a number of exceptionally

interesting monuments - has there been a school project identifying tomb names? - this could create much enthusiasm and also provide a bank of historical data. Pleasant planting was seen, such as at the old pump, the grotto, and at the poignant Titanic memorial, and several well-tended urns and window boxes.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The School garden was noted. You give very little information about your activities under this heading and it is difficult to assess what steps have been taken to encourage the local flora and fauna. You may be due additional marks here due to the paucity of information provided - please give more comprehensive details next year.

Litter Control:

The recycling centre was clean. Litter control throughout the village was good - congratulations.

Tidiness:

The derelict buildings certainly detract from the visual integrity of the village - you are clearly aware of this and it is hoped that your representations will be successful. The GAA park was very neat - not always the case in other centres - and in general your comparatively high mark under this heading is well merited.

Residential Areas:

The new buildings on the principal corner should certainly be acknowledged under this heading as well as under the Built Environment above. The cottages on the north side of the main road were mostly well presented, though a few needed their gates and boundary walls repainted. New housing on the Castleblakeney side will look well when foliage matures and boundaries are completed; it is too early to assess this adequately, and the same applies to new housing on the Ahascragh road. Trees should be planted here as soon as possible. Housing beyond the church is becoming a small suburb: be sure to encourage any further building here to fill the interces and not to create widespread ribbon development. Any opportunity to create further infill housing in the village should be preferred to new estates on the outskirts in order to maintain the sense of community.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road was well surfaced, as indeed were the side roads. The church car park as well maintained. The tradition of building stone walls has been continued to excellent effect. Try to phase out cement block boundary walls.

General Impression:

There was ample evidence of a forward-looking community, with a great deal of good planning and hard work undertaken. More written and graphic information with your next submission could result in additional marking.