

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glenamaddy**

Ref: **656**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **187**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	26	23
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	180

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your sense of frustration at the delays in proceeding with major improvements is very evident. However, your plans for the future are postponed rather than cancelled, and it is for your planning that you have gained additional marks under this heading. The sensitive and forward looking proposals from John Yates and Associates has been studied with much interest. It will take some time to implement whatever suggestions in it you decide to adopt. For these reasons, therefore, a huge supply of patience has to be taken on board! In the meantime, you have done very well this year under Litter Control, which many centres find the most vexatious topic, and you have done well under some of the other headings. You may be losing potential marks through not providing more information on work undertaken or completed in the year preceding each competition, and if you had enclosed the required map it would have been a great help in assessing the various locations. Without such as map it is hoped that we have not missed any important features.

The Built Environment:

Some lovely traditional premisses were noted in the town centre, though not all were in first class condition. Most of the shops and public houses looked well at the date of adjudication, though a few, including the splendid Keaveney's, needed freshening up with paint. The handsome church was well looked after; the Bell memorial sculpture was much admired. The Garda station was also smart looking. The schools were well enough presented, but not exceptionally well. Of the commercial premisses, Meteor looked well. Buildings opposite and beside the library were not as well kept as

most, and the derelict or near derelict buildings very close to the main cross roads (on the Creggs side) gave a very poor impression indeed on arrival in the town centre.

Landscaping:

Window boxes, tubs and attractive plantings such as the flowerbeds in the square contributed well to the overall effect. When the road and sewage works are completed there will be opportunities for more substantial projects which can be truly designated as 'landscaping' rather than just as 'gardens' or 'planting' such as in the grounds of the community school and the church. The most eye-catching and successful site in this category was in fact a private garden of a modern house on the Kilkerrin side, where wild flowers had been sown to wonderful effect. Sowings such as this would also look well along approach roads, or in awkward corners.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Tree planting comes under this heading, and your achievement has been substantial. More information on what you propose for the lake/turlough, and on activities engaged in by schoolchildren, would help future assessment.

Litter Control:

The recycling centre was seen to be litter free. There was very little disposable litter on the date of adjudication - congratulations on this - though quite an amount was seen in the neighbourhood of the hotel. It is incumbent upon owners of all business premises, as well as householders, to keep their immediate surroundings litter free.

Tidiness:

The obtrusively neglected area on the south side of the Creggs road has already been referred to, where there are neglected shopfronts, a derelict building, poles and wires. Other small areas of untidiness were the frontage of Kelly's crash repairs, Mannions entrance on the Kilkerrin road and untidy structures at a commercial site on the same road. The frontage of the Community Centre was well looked after this year. It is minor incidences of neglect or dereliction which give a poorer impression than their small size might lead one to imagine. .

Residential Areas:

The most attractive private houses in Glenamaddy are the traditional street homes and terraces, and these were almost invariably presented with real pride. The large estate on the Kilkerrin road was well kept - it was at one of these houses that the fine garden of wild flowers was seen. O'Keefe Park was variable; generally very brightly kept with the meadow providing a nice open space; there was plenty of room for more tree planting; some gables and boundary walls were badly stained, but these were in a minority. Where colour was used on house fronts, cement boundary walls should match, and they generally did. You should discourage ribbon development, and encourage infill housing where there are vacant or demolished houses in the centre.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There should be a further rise in marks next year when the extensive roadworks are completed, and green verges and new pavements will become evident on the Creggs road. Stone wall building was very favourable noted. Of the car parks, that near the hotel was relatively untidy as was the one on the left of Geraghtys, while the one on the right of Geraghty's was exceedingly well kept.

General Impression:

The general impression was in fact mixed, but work at present being undertaken, and work proposed in your documentation, show that you are aware of the challenges and are rising to them. Next year's visit, when substantial improvements are expected, will be eagerly looked forward to. Best wishes in your admirable endeavours.