

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glinsk**

Ref: **454**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **217**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	21
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	9	11
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	217	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your account of your activities over a decade and your plans for 2005. Your schematic map has been most helpful. (On your entry form, please only enter projects which have been worked on since last year, not proposals for the future which are more suitable for other documentation.) The Galway Rural Study findings are truly revelatory to the outsider; your concern for social and demographic matters is to be applauded. Glinsk has been an interesting place to visit because of its variety of features spread over a wide area - more a parish or a neighbourhood than a conventional village. This year there has been so much development covering a number of projects, of their nature not all completed, that it has not been possible to give the high marking which will, however, certainly be due when these projects are successfully finished and can be adequately assessed.

The Built Environment:

The Church, in its lovely surroundings, was looking very well at the date of the visit; its boundary walls will shortly need repainting. The School, with its wide and trim spaces and planting, was much admired. The Credit Union was well presented. The Community Centre, a building of minimum charm, was well looked after, as were the commercial units at the back. Congratulations on the thatched cottage; it is heartening to know that the craft still flourishes.

Landscaping:

The most impressive landscaping projects were those associated with buildings. The gardens around the church, the children's play area with its illustrative walls, shrubbery, lawns and cotoneaster hedge, the Abbey with its attractively kept graveyard. The national school reunion seat was of most attractive design, backed by the fine hedge.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Planting of young trees is one of the first essentials in a wild life programme, and it was good to see that you have continued to do so, both in public and private areas. Your plans for the locality of the school, including the replanting of the wildflower area, are admirable. The proposed nature trail walk was another project that will be looked forward to. The glen, with its mature timber, was undergoing developmental work and therefore not looking its best - this is hardly a problem for the creatures which make it their home. The information board associated with the Suick Valley Way was useful and instructive.

Litter Control:

The recycling centre was clean. There was very little litter at any of the locations. Congratulations on this achievement.

Tidiness:

Poisoning of weeds along verges had had absolutely the wrong effect by creating unpleasant brown areas - this spoiled the appearance of several locations. A scruffy entrance off the road at the plastic tunnels was seen. A rusty corrugated iron roof near the graveyard caught the eye in a negative way. There was considerable roadside weed outside the GAA park. The cement walls here might be made more attractive by planting or painting - or better still, as a long-term project, by facing in stone. Due to the building work in several places the village was temporarily marred by small collections of rubble, bits of wire fencing and general builders' debris.

Residential Areas:

The thatched cottage perhaps should be mentioned here rather than under 'Buildings' - but no harm in mentioning it under both. Most of the private homes were presented with a sense of pride, and it was good to learn from your documentation that two of the handsome houses were recent renovations. Should new housing be proposed, encourage infill building in order to preserve a sense of community, rather than creating new estates in remote areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfacing was generally good, but with some roughness in the village centre at Dowd's and the Greencastle public house where one would expect the opposite. Excellent wall building was seen, and the continued work on the bridges was admired. Work was in progress on the bus pull-in on the date of adjudication. The car parks were well tended.

General Impression:

A village where much energy and imagination is being expended in improving the life of the people as well as on environmental issues. Every good wish for the numerous projects which you have initiated.