

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leenane**

Ref: **104**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	191	187

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form - the handwriting was rather hard to read, but the map was very clear and helpful. The innovative children's project reads most interestingly - we would be interested to know what the children found to be good and bad in their environment. Your entry is very strong on ideas, though some of them seem to be taking a considerable time to come to fruition, through no fault of the Development Association.

The Built Environment:

It was seen that the Community Centre was now completed, and that it contained the library. The lovely wayside Church was immaculate in its painted exterior. The School with its fine lawn and superb hydrangeas was another building for which those coming from elsewhere might be truly envious. The Convent bed-&-breakfast was another well-kept building in a beautiful location. The Cultural Centre, an imaginatively designed building, was well maintained. The internationally known Leenane Hotel, a handsome building, looked well, though one would have expected a more prepossessing garden. Most shops were reasonably well presented though it would be preferable if there were fewer mass-produced signs and less external advertising. The building containing the Cruise office was in need of whitewashing on the date of adjudication. The neat modern frontage of the Coffee House was seen to fit in well with the more traditional shop fronts. Excellent lettering distinguished The Village Grill and Hamilton's Bar.

Landscaping:

Anything resembling landscaping was seen in gardens off the street, such as the church and school already mentioned, and a number of private houses. Flower beds in the village centre were well tended, and there were good window boxes and hanging baskets. The heather bed has to contend with the mountainsides for attention. The cemetery in its wonderful situation was obviously looked after with loving care.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You provided very little written material under this heading - for example, the nature of the botany tours which sound as if they might be exceptionally innovative; it is possible that you may be doing yourselves out of additional marks because of paucity of information supplied. The sign boards opposite the Cultural Centre - birds of Killary, the flora of the neighbourhood and scientific data on tides - were the best presented and most informative seen this year.

Litter Control:

This was good, but some disposable litter was seen at the village centre and at the recycling unit. It is extraordinary that this latter facility, essential as it is, should be placed in the foreground of one of the most wonderful views in Ireland!; the natural beauty of Killary is correctly described on your entry form as one of the 'unique features' of the village.

Tidiness:

There was much poisoned weed in evidence, especially along the Maam and Clifden roads. Brown dead foliage can look worse than the weeds themselves. A scruffy site was noted opposite the ultra-tidy school and a very unsightly property opposite Sea View. A site appeared to be in the process of development between the road and the sea opposite the Convent & b; if this is the case it is hoped that whatever goes there will not detract from the view.

Residential Areas:

The older traditional houses in the village centre give Leenane its real character. Most of the more recent individual houses on the outskirts were well presented on the date of adjudication. There is danger of excessive ribbon development on the approach roads, which, if continued, will damage the very thing that visitors come to see - the unspoiled environment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces of the main approach roads were good, but the standard declined in the village and especially between there and the pier. The large car park at the Cultural Centre was becoming potholed. Good new footpaths were seen, some in process of being laid down. Certainly additional street lighting standards are needed. Fine stone walls, old and new, were favourably noted.

General Impression:

The Development Association is clearly working very hard to maintain and enhance this superbly located village. The constraints are many, and are set out in the Plan which shows an acute comprehension of the dangers of unsympathetic development and the challenges to be met arising from the daily influx of visitors. The results of your ongoing projects will be eagerly awaited - best wishes for them.

