

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Moylough**

Ref: **179**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **178**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	20
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	15
Litter Control	40	28	24
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	20
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>151</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Marking generally starts at a low base when a centre enters the competition or re-enters after a lapse of years. Your marking last year was therefore comparatively low, but your increase this year has been exceptionally high due mainly to the obvious consolidation of the work in progress. However, if you continue the way you seem to be going, you may have reasonable expectations of further dramatic increases, especially when the unique Turlough project is completed. It would be to your advantage to create a 3-year Development Programme, setting out definite objectives under the various headings yearby-year.

### The Built Environment:

The Church, in its pleasant open area of lawns and planting, impressed. The neat school was looking remarkably spic-and-span. The cement factory, which appeared to have closed, was nonetheless brightly presented. Do be sure to encourage the preservation of the traditional decorative plasterwork surrounding many doors and windows of business premisses as well as private homes. You should also encourage development and building agencies to introduce this attractive style into new buildings.

### Landscaping:

The boulevard effect of grass verges and tree planting on the Mount Bellew side gives a splendid impression as you enter the village. The planting round the church, at the crossroads and on the road to Kilkerrin, all contributed not only a sense of colour but also a sense of pride and care. Plenty of good outdoor seating was noted. The children's playground on the road towards the Turlough was lively and well maintained.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Tree planting comes under this heading though it is also a distinctive part of landscaping. Your tree planting programme is impressive, particularly in relation to the Turlough. The site of the Turlough was visited and the scientific data in your your Natural Heritage Proposals document read. This is a most imaginative plan, and its development will be eagerly looked forward to. It is good to see that you propose to erect interpretative signboards. Are you involving school children in this or in any other form of nature study?

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was good. It is understood that this can vary from day to day, but on the date of adjudication there was very little litter present. If this is shown to be a continuing feature in Moylough over the next couple of years you should receive an appropriate rise in marking.

### **Tidiness:**

Apart from some dereliction, the village was tidy on adjudication day. Where possible, derelict houses or business premisses should be restored and, if necessary put to new uses. If dereliction persists, the Loca! Authority has powers to take action when serious cases are reported. There was some poisoning of roadside weeds - this had left decaying brown debris and was as unattractive as the weeds themselves.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many very pleasant traditional street homes were seen, almost all presented with pride. Infill housing next the Credit Union was favourable noted - do encourage more of this as it preserves the visual amenity, and also the sense of community which can be absent from new estates that are remotely situated. Do not encourage ribbon development along approach roads. A very fine Georgian house was seen next the Spar shop, and a similarly fine mansion nearby among superb timber. Meadow Court was notable for its welcome absence of uniform design throughout, for its tree planting - though there is space for more in the section nearer the village - and for the fine stone walls at the entrance. The Dales was also well kept; houses with a background of mature timber have an advantage over others in their visual presentation.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Surfaces were unusually good on the main street, less so on the tributary roads. The area round the castle, the water tower and the cemetery at the Dunmore and Galway junction is rather bleak - the same attention has not been accorded to it as to the rest of the village and the approach from these towns is less impressive as a result.

### **General Impression:**

This adjudicator had not been to Moylough previously, except for passing through several years ago, and at that time it was a fairly average kind of village. The change has been remarkable - it is now a place you want to stop in and enjoy the scene. Much more is promised when your wild life and heritage plans come into operation. Every good wish for your continued success.

