

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Spidéal**

Ref: **765**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **232**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	
The Built Environment	40	31	
Landscaping	40	33	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	32	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	24	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	
General Impression	10	8	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>232</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns competition and may I wish you the Tidy Towns committee and the greater An Spideal community all the best in the competition in future years. The village has natural assets, particularly its beautiful seaside location which the committee can and should capitalise upon. You have made a good start and there is enormous potential for An Spideal to progress well in the competition. A 3 or 5 year plan is essential, however in order to avoid any complacency setting in perhaps an initial strategy, which does not have to be too elaborate, should be drawn up immediately with achievable annual goals and targets. This will assist in focusing both the committee and the general community in their efforts to plan ahead and can always be encompassed into the eventual long-term plan.

### The Built Environment:

Elimination of dereliction or neglected buildings would be important. The Garda Station grounds were neglected and with only a small effort could look better. The Church and grounds, the old graveyard all looked well, however some litter was left lying about at the area of Cill Einde 1854 ruin. The library buildings, the Craft Centre, were all very well presented. Both the national School building and forecourt of the petrol station could do with some brightening up; paper receipts at the base of the cash machine area should be cleared. The majority of the business premises looked well on adjudication day, including the premises of Boluisce and Criscin Lan. A number of street benches require some painting. The placing of the remaining utility wires underground would greatly assist

the visual impact on the streetscape and would make a difference.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaping, planting and flower arrangements around the Church grounds looked well. Individual business premises made a great effort with landscaping or hung baskets and flower boxes on their premises. This enhanced the streetscape and made the village bright, cheerful and welcoming. Some weeding was required at the base of the trees on the footpath outside Eiseadunas - An Nead properties.

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

Some plaques or an information board dealing with wildlife, flowers and fauna in the immediate area should be erected and would be of great interest to the locals and tourists alike. There are many hidden wildlife treasures in the surrounding area with the Atlantic Ocean and seashore, river and the woodlands on the doorstep; make the most of them.

### **Litter Control:**

You have done well under this category. A village like An Spideal due to its location and popularity will always have to be alert in regard to litter. On adjudication day the number of well-maintained litterbins was obvious and welcomed. Well done to all concerned. The bring bank care at the seashore was good to see; loose bottle tops and can rings at the base of the containers should be swept up. The metal containers could also do with some painting. Presumably the temporary advertising signs for the circus will be removed after the event.

### **Tidiness:**

In general the village is presented to a good standard and is neat and tidy looking. Refuse or storage bins for recyclable material at premises should be placed out of sight or screened off. The metal railings surrounding Colaiste Chroi Mhuire require painting; the former petrol pumps and advertising display poles that are now derelict or unused in the centre of the village should be removed, as they are becoming an eyesore. Premises such as Supermacs have an abundance of lighting units on the building- these units should be minimized, as they take from buildings and the overall streetscape, as does too much signage on the outside of any property. The small road sign thrown into the river should be removed, a river is a natural asset to a village and yours looked well. The beachfront area and beach was well maintained and being fully utilised on adjudication day.

### **Residential Areas:**

A lot of individual effort is being made by most residential property owners, presenting them to a high standard. An Tulan Cleasach development was disappointing especially its entrance from the main road combined with the apparent lack of general maintenance of the estate, however some individual house owners are making an effort to maintain their properties. Radharc na Run was very well presented. Along the roads quite a number of private house owners present their homes and gardens to a very high standard - especially the houses with creepers and plants to their fronts. Well done to all the house owners for making that special effort.

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

Where old stonewalls become damaged or fall down they should be repaired, i.e. along the road from the new pier and on the Baile Ard road. The two main approach roads looked very well and gave a good impression of the village as you approach it. The surface of the side roads could do with resurfacing. The general areas of the old and new piers looked very well on adjudication day. It was noted that the hedges and ditches had been cut back on the roads down to the piers and looked well. Spraying is required on the weeds at the base of the low boundary wall at the beach. The

rough open area after the old high stonewall prior to the new pier should be cleaned up, walls repaired, resurfaced and made secure. Hopefully the temporary timber hoarding on the western approach road, along the perimeter of the old estate, will not become unsightly or a permanent fixture.

### **General Impression:**

Well done to all involved on the Tidy Towns committee and their supporters. I have no doubt that with the continuing effort by all the community of An Spideal supporting the tidy towns effort it could increase its marks in future years. The village looked most welcoming on adjudication day, however more needs to be done - keep up the good work and good luck with your efforts into the future. It was nice to see the use of Irish on signage throughout the village and where appropriate bi-lingual signage, which will greatly assist visitors to An Spideal to appreciate our heritage.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

An Spideal is very welcome to the competition – the adjudicator read this fact with interest having passed through the village in the past and wondered why it didn't enter as it had all the necessary ingredients to do well! The grounds of the Craft Centre on the Galway road are most attractive and were well maintained on the day. The Moycullen road is an attractive long entrance to the village, with its stone walls, hedgerows filled with a variety of wildflowers and stone carved nameplate. The metal nameplate on this road was a little grubby in appearance. Some weeds were apparent in the vicinity of the Medical Centre and adjacent buildings looked quite neglected. Untidy yard areas should be screened from public view. A charming thatched cottage was noted opposite the library. The thatched Chlann na Mara Hotel sported some rusty staining below its metal balcony. There is obviously a good use of the Irish Language! Empty frames, which once sported signs, should be removed on the Galway road. Bollards at the seafront and promenade area need some attention. The National School has a magnificent view – some judicious seaside planting should be considered in this location. The recycling bins appeared a little neglected and weeds were apparent to their plinth area – this was also a problem at the beach and pier area. A few papers were noted on the Maam Cross road. The graveyard gates in this location were quite rusty. The Leabharlann was extremely fresh in appearance. An Spideal has an attractive seaside location, which sports a magnificent view across Galway Bay to the Burren beyond. It has the potential to do well in the competition.