

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tynagh Village**

Ref: **302**

County: **Galway**

Mark: **186**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	11	13
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was very encouraging to find your 5-Year plan proceeding - but surely this was its second year, not its fourth, since it began in 2003? There is very useful tabulation of projects shown year-by-year, and you are wished success for its continuation. On your map, please show all sites that should be visited - for example, you did not mark the mass path, or show the buildings in the neighbourhood of the school (which are rather unexpected being so far removed from the centre): it is hoped we have not missed anything important as a result.

The Built Environment:

Both the Church and school were looking exceedingly trim on the date of adjudication. The Community Hall was very well painted. The entrance to the GM park was bright and trim. An old limestone school with blocked-up windows is the most architecturally distinguished building in the village and it would be important to find a good use for it. The mural on the gable of Gordon's fine public house was in need of repainting; the boundary wall of the Garda station was also in need of painting.

Landscaping:

The layout of the Fair Green, with its grassed space, paving and tree planting has been a

commendable project; unfortunately the recently gravelled path was already growing weeds - this is the kind of thing which could be prevented with very little effort. Brackets for hanging baskets were seen without the baskets. The surroundings of the church were very well kept, with fine lawns and shrubberies, and the cemetery was a credit to those who look after it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have not responded on the entry form under this heading. Your tree planting programme was favourably noted, with young broadleaves flourishing in a number of areas. Your mark in this section is a nominal one pending further information on your activities to maintain and promote the appreciation of the natural environment. A visit to two or three other villages at this end of the county could provide some ideas which you might take up.

Litter Control:

There was considerable litter at the recycling unit. Otherwise, your litter control is successful, as the comparatively high marking demonstrates.

Tidiness:

It is a pity that the exterior of the GAA park is used for long-term parking of trucks. The entrance to Woodwaste was quite unsightly on the date of adjudication - an attempt had clearly been made to provide good screening, but several sections of this fence had become dilapidated or had been removed - it is a shame to have to lose marks over something that could be anticipated and quite easily be corrected. Untidy garages and entrances were seen opposite each other in the centre of the village. Some derelict houses were seen; these seem to be a perennial blight on the village. The local authority has powers to deal with persistent dereliction where reported.

Residential Areas:

Most of the houses in the village and neighbourhood were presented with pride. Half a dozen particularly well kept houses with pretty gardens were seen near the cemetery. The thatched house was charming as always. The best individual home noticed was the Old Rectory. A very handsome (and perhaps vacant) house with a nice arched entry was seen to be quite dirty due to passing traffic. The new housing estate looked promising but can not be assessed until completed. Encourage infill housing in the centre of the village to replace what has been lost over the years and to maintain the sense of community. Do not encourage ribbon development on approach roads or estates which may be planned remote from the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Very good verges and fine stone walls were seen on the Portumna road. When the extensive new footpaths have been completed there should be additional marks to be gained in this area. The stone name signs were praised by last year's adjudicator and this year's would like to add commendations.

General Impression:

Tynagh has the potential to become one of the most attractive and well presented villages in the county, but progress seems to be slow, and improvements to a number of prominently untidy sites has not been rigorously pursued. It is hoped that your five year plan will create the impetus and the will to bring the village up to the standard which it so patently deserves.