

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigallen**

Ref: **712**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **197**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	24
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	27	29
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	202

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome you to the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition. The really successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3-5 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Co Council
- Local SuperValu outlet
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local School or schools
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to

guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Likewise no village map was provided with your entry form.

The Built Environment:

The Primary Care Centre is one of the really important buildings in your village. The dead grass and weeds at the low wall at this building should be removed. The street lighting standards look quite impressive but the adjudicator is of the view that the design might be more appropriate for a large village or urban environment. The Hall building is in need of painting and the traffic cone over the door should be removed as a matter of urgency. The area to the side of the Hall with the timber fencing is quite untidy with long grass and weeds.

On adjudication day the streets were in need of sweeping not just to remove litter but to sweep up dust and dead grass.

Projecting advertising signs were noted in a number of back lanes in the town centre and this needs attention. The issue is how many of these signs are really essential from a commercial point of view? The School car park near the Church is in need of landscaping as the building and newly surfaced car park looks rather bleak and in need of added colour. On the approach to Carrigallen from the Longford the high gable wall on the right needs painting.

Landscaping:

Some good landscaping work was evident in the village but in some areas long grass and weeds were in danger of taking over from the plants and shrubs. The area at the back of the long wall leading to the Church has matured well and looks colourful. However across the road in the Church car parking area long grass was evident in some of the landscaped area.

The landscaped lake viewing area on the Mohill road is a beautiful area. However the situation could be improved with some attention to detail. For example the seats need to be painted, the fencing repaired and also painted. Litter is a major problem here also.

The hanging baskets were quite effective against the black of the light standards and the plants added some nice colour to the streetscape.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your co-operation with the Gun Club is noted. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals,

plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

The lake at your village has excellent potential to become a really important natural amenity.

Litter Control:

When you develop your Tidy Towns Plan it should have a section on litter control. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your town / village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generates of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

Litter is a problem in Carrigallen despite the good efforts of the Foroige Club. Quantities of litter was noted on the Killeshandra approach road, on Main Street, at the Town Lake car park and at the lake viewing area on the Mohill road.

Tidiness:

An overgrown landscaped area was noted near the Jetwash premises. Long grass and weed growth was noted at the base of some building walls and this is a problem in a number of different parts of the village. The Garage area was quite untidy and some screening here would bring about a big improvement. Several road boundary walls are in need of painting.

Residential Areas:

The work of Bredagh Residents Association is obviously quite effective. Many private houses were excellently presented and several beautifully landscaped gardens caught the eye. The large green house on the Killeshandra road caught the eye as did the nearby Grenville House. The Cluan Alann housing estate will need serious landscaping before the builders leave the site.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new village signs look effective and provide a nice introduction to the village. The Killeshandra approach needs a lot of work as little long term concentrated work appears to have been done on the banks and verges. Likewise on the Longford road more regular attention will bring better results. On the Mohill approach the very untidy area at the village sign should have good landscaping potential.

The approach road to the Town lake is very poor. The verges / briars / bushes need to be cut back

and the grass removed from the middle of the road. Really a few days work here would transform this approach.

General Impression:

The preparation of the 3 - 5 Year Tidy Towns Plan and it's implementation should bring good results for Carrigallen.