

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fenagh**

Ref: **381**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	22
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>176</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the village map and the most detailed 2004 - 2006 Action Plan. Before Christmas this year you should advance your plan to cover the years 2006 - 2008. You have a very comprehensive list of objectives in your plan - be careful not to undertake too many objectives each year.

Your committee of 15 people appears to be well supported both by the community and the various agencies that are there to assist you.

Fenagh is a very attractive village set in lush countryside in an area with a rich historical heritage.

### The Built Environment:

Perhaps the key building in the village is the old Hall. The refurbishment looks really well. This is a good stone building and external works appear to have been carried out to a high standard. The extension (?) behind blends perfectly with the original building. What is to happen with the Handball Alley?

Both public and private buildings in the village looked well and recent painting was evident in many cases.

A few derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built environment

of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

The derelict building at the Mohill junction is in a very prominent place. Perhaps the owner might consider removing the old roof timbers. The corrugated roof behind would then need to be painted green.

## **Landscaping:**

The new trees, hanging baskets, and flower beds in various locations add much colour to the village. The village name signs are attractively presented and the landscaping here was much admired. Do remember that all cut grass must be removed the day that it is cut. That has not happened with recent cutting in your village. Dead grass is untidy and detracts greatly from landscaped areas.

Good landscaping was noted at the School and the native trees that you planted there. At the old abbey entrance area the window boxes add a splash of colour and contrast in an attractive way with the stone.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have provided bird feeders at the School. 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 to 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 river in your town has excellent potential to become a really important natural amenity. You should start by organising a major river clean up. Landscaping of the river bank areas should then follow, with the provision perhaps of appropriate seating.

### **Litter Control:**

Your litter removal programme is a good idea and this is something that can be repeated from time to time. Some litter was noted at the Recycling Centre, and on the Ballinamore approach road. In the village centre litter control was otherwise quite good.

### **Tidiness:**

Dead weeds were noted in a number of places including the Keshcarrigan approach road at the low stone wall on the right. Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme. Grass growth at some road boundary walls was noted, and some of these walls need to be painted.

A very untidy verge was noted near the Ball Alley and road kerbing is probably required here to mark off the edge of the road. The area inside the kerbs could then become an attractive new landscaped area.

A very untidy open site was noted near the Mohill junction with an abandoned truck in the middle of it. This area with the cooperation of the owner needs most urgent attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

Landscaping is needed at the new estate as it looks rather bare. Otherwise housing was well presented and good landscaping was a feature of many private properties.

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

Fine well maintained low stone walls are a key feature of most of your approach roads. On the Mohill approach the fine trees on the right hand side are a feature than helps to anchor the village visually in the countryside. Excellent hedging together with stone walls makes the Ballinamore approach most attractive. On the Cloone approach some cutting seems to have been done further out from the village, but closer in there appears to have been little or no recent work done.

Your project to wash all signs on a frequent basis is commended, and do make sure that all sign poles are suitable painted.

### **General Impression:**

You have a hard working committee. Do make sure that the recommendations in this report are discussed and incorporated into your Action Plan for the future.

Good luck with the good work!