

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Jamestown**

Ref: **55**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **173**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	18	19
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	173	165

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank your Tidy Towns Committee for the extremely detailed 2005 Application File. This was really useful on adjudication day. You have an extremely well organised committee structure with responsibilities allocated to each individual committee member. For various reasons this is an excellent approach.

Your objectives over the next few years are very interesting. However when updating you plan at the end of 2005 do allocate tasks to individual years.

From your documentation it appears that you are receiving great community support and financial back-up. Well done to all involved.

Hopefully your discussions with Waterways Ireland will bring about a situation where both parties will work towards common aims in the future.

The Built Environment:

The old Arch provides a superb 'entrance' to the village, and it also has the practical use of slowing down traffic at that point. It adds character to the village as does the Tower. The new window frames had not been installed in the old Workhouse on the day of adjudication but the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the completed task at some time in the future. Your door to door campaign

to encourage painting certainly brought great results as the majority of properties seem to have been freshly painted. Just a few need to be painted in the near future.

The proposal to build 50 additional houses in Jamestown is indeed of concern, and this sort of situation is arising with many villages of your size. It has been a brave decision to take a stand against the development as planned. Your village has a special character that can so easily be eroded by a major housing influx.

The derelict Gate lodge near the bridge hopefully can be restored at some time in the future. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of this building pending restoration. Try and get the owner 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 Quay area was very neatly presented and is a most attractive amenity area. At the private mooring area opposite some weed growth needs to be removed.

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?

Landscaping:

The new landscaped area near the Bridge looked very attractive on adjudication day. The information panel with the leaflets was most informative. The seating here overlooking the river is a very relaxing area to spend a few moments. Your adjudicator nominated this area for the National Landscape Award and will be considered with all the other nominations from around the country. The landscaped area near the Community Alert sign sets off that part of the village perfectly. The use of flower baskets and window boxes throughout the village gave a great sense of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator went to meet your Ducks on adjudication day both both the adults and their families did not appear to be at home. This has been a very worthwhile development from a wildlife point of view. 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 your 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.

Litter Control:

Litter control both in the village on approach roads was excellent and the provision of the new litter bins has been noted. Well done to all involved on achieving a high standard of litter control.

Tidiness:

The painting of the field gates was a good initiative together with the sign poles. Often these poles are forgotten at painting time. At the Quay some incidental weed growth was noted at the kerbing. On Rue road some piles of gravel and stones were noted and these looked quite untidy. Some weed and grass growth was also noted at a small open space between two properties.

Residential Areas:

Practically all private properties were presented and maintained to a high standard. At many properties landscaping of appropriate scale has taken place. Some of the gardens were very attractive with beautifully presented lawns. In the village centre a small garden with a fine display of red roses caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the approach road from Carrick-On-Shannon the wide verge on the right hand side looks somewhat untidy. The provision of kerbing here to mark the edge of the roadway would be a major improvement. The area inside the kerbing could then be grassed and landscaped and would make an excellent introduction to the village from the Carrick-On-Shannon side.

On the Rue road verges need to be cut and presentation here could be greatly improved. The road surface here also leave much to be desired.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate Jamestown. What a beautiful village so full of character that has a real sense of a caring community. The adjudicator is of the view that your village can do really well in the competition in the years ahead given the present level of commitment.