

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Keshcarrigan**

Ref: **219**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **184**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	184	184

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the supporting documentation and village map. The 3 - 5 Year Plan document provided for the adjudicator was useful. However when you are revising this plan for 2006 - 2008 it would be a good idea to identify clearly for each year what your objectives are for that year. In this way it will be easier for you to measure your progress.

You have a large committee of 20 and appear to have good community and agency support and this is vitally important.

During adjudication road works were in progress at both ends of the village, together with housing development under way also.

The Built Environment:

The plans for the Community Resource Centre will provide a most useful community resource as well as dealing with the problem of the existing derelict building. The Art Sculpture is quite interesting in a good natural rock location. The National School was under development on adjudication day and the adjudicator was uncertain as to whether this was for future use as a school or other private use. Either way it is good to see this attractive stone building under restoration. Many of the buildings in the village appear to have been painted recently, but some gable walls were noted that need urgent painting also.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator looks forward with anticipation to seeing the completed Peace Garden - what an excellent idea. The Marina area is quite attractive but weed growth was noted at the base of walls. In the Square the heavy landscaping here is quite attractive but the field gate here needs to be painted a bright colour. The untidy laneway beside the Square took away somewhat from the overall landscaped effect of this key village area. The Fair Green Garden is a very pleasant relaxing area. The seating area here by the stream is a very peaceful area. It is noted that the long vegetation has not been removed from the stream and this is recommended practice - well done on this project.

Be careful not to over do the provision of window boxes, baskets and tubs. What you have at the moment adds much to the appearance of the village. The natural landscaping at the Art Sculpture looks well and is complimented by the many trees planted just across the road. together with the low stone wall and the lush green verge.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that you have provided some nesting boxes in the area. 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 further 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.

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The lake at your vilage 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:

Occasional litter was noted in the village, but generally litter control was quite good in the village. Some litter was noted in the Fair Green at the seating area by the river. Do you need a litter bin at that location?

Tidiness:

A few plastic shop signs were noted and hopefully you may be able to get the owners to replace these using more traditional materials. 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? At the Mohill junction approximately 15 individual signs were noted of many different designs. Can you try and rationalise the signs at this junction, as the present situation looks quite untidy.

Residential Areas:

Some of the estates that are occupied still look quite untidy and surfaced roads have to be put in. These estates therefore were quite untidy in terms of overall presentation. At the estate on the Mohill road with the arch the plot a tree or shrub could be found and little landscaping effort appears to have been made by the builder to date. Hopefully this will be remedied. A quite untidy area was noted to the rear of Lake View estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

With the exception of the Mohill approach road the other approaches to the village were of a poor standard. However roads works were underway and the adjudicator has made allowances for that in the allocation of marks under this category. Hopefully by next year all approach roads will be transformed.

General Impression:

Keep up your good work and do look seriously at the recommendations made in this report and try and incorporate them in your 2006 and onwards plans.