

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lurganboy**

Ref: **376**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **189**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	
The Built Environment	40	26	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	31	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	189	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank Lurganboy for entering the Tidy Towns Competition in 2005. You are indeed a very worthy addition to the many entries that this important competition attracts each year. The work that the Development Association has done to date is indeed impressive and you seem to be adopting a very focused approach to your various plans for the village. That is excellent.

Your village has a really beautiful setting nestling in a valley in the surrounding hills and beautiful countryside.

Thank you for the booklet on the social history of Lurganboy and the most useful map together with you Tidy Towns: Plan for 2005. You should now proceed to prepare your plan to cover the period 2006 - 2008 indicating each year your priority issues. The plan should attempt to cost each activity and indicate how each project is to be funded. The role of all other agencies involved with you should be clearly stated in the plan.

You seem to have an excellent sense of vision for the future and this is much admired by the adjudicator. Your involvement with FAS and the County Council has obviously been very productive.

The Built Environment:

In a village as small as yours every building is important and has a role to play in the overall appearance of Lurganboy.

Low stone walls capped in concrete are a fine feature throughout the village. Though they were built in recent years they have a visual appearance of being much older. The FAS seats and the drinking troughs are another feature that fits well into this village.

The Church of Ireland building is most unusual in design terms. It would be interesting to have a plaque by the roadside that would describe in more detail the history of this building.

The work in the last few years on pavements looks very attractive and blends well with the low stone walls.

It is important to preserve local history and the Millennium Stone 2004 does just that.

Landscaping:

The provision of some hanging baskets was noted. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your village. To a great extent you have already achieved this.

The future project along the River Bonet sounds a really excellent idea and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of your work on this in the years ahead.

You have done great work on the development of local walks. Perhaps these should be sign posted from the village centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

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 continues to 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 there is

probably a teacher living in the general area 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. An obvious location is at the River Bonet.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on the level of litter control that you have achieved. Very little litter was noted on adjudication day - a little around the area of the new housing development on the Manorhamilton road. Your litter clean up campaigns are obviously working very well.

Tidiness:

A few untidy open spaces were noted to the side of some properties. Here long grass and weed growth was noted in several areas. On the road down to the Plaster Recycling works an untidy entrance area was noted on the left hand side near the bottom of the hill.

Residential Areas:

Private houses and gardens were presented to a really high standard. In the village centre painting was under way on adjudication day. Some really good landscaping was noted in the gardens of several private houses. On the Manorhamilton road the low road boundary walls blend well with the landscaping of the nearby private gardens. In the main street the older house opposite the cream and green property needs to be painted. The iron railings at this house need attention also. Just across the road from this property the bungalow with the extensive landscaping really catches the eye.

Well done to all the residents involved for a great community effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them.

Where there is a wider verge on one or both sides of an approach road best practice indicates that only about 0.5 to 1 metres of the grass verge in from the road should be cut on a regular basis.

The rest of the verge area should be kept wild to allow for the needs of wildlife. However you will still need to pay attention to this area. In general you should not let this area get too overgrown and untidy. Watch out also for litter that may get trapped by the long grass on this part of your verge.

Hedging on approach roads needs trimming from time to time but do avoid bird nesting time of the year..

Speed limit sign poles and other poles need to be washed and painted on a regular basis. The poles that support these signs should also be painted by the Local Authority

Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that any damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme.

General Impression:

The general impression that the visitor to Lurganboy gets is that of a community working together to make their place a better place. That is the central philosophy of Tidy Towns. Well done to the Development Association and the whole community on your progress to date.