

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockbridge**

Ref: **537**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **259**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	45
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	30	30
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	259	254

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Tidy Towns Committee for the village map and the 5 Year Development Plan for Knockbridge. The way in which the total community appears to have been brought into the development of this visionary Plan is quite impressive. However the adjudicator recommends that you identify clearly in your Tidy Towns plan exactly what objectives are to be targeted each year. You should indicate also what agency or organisation will support that action, and who is responsible for achieving what end result. You have indeed made great progress in the Tidy Towns Competition since 1982 and congratulations on achieving further progress in the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Your work with the ESB on the issue of getting cabling underground is welcomed as is the proposal for traffic calming measures, and the provision of new street furniture. At the Community Centre the metal shuttering needs to be painted, what about using a strong colour such as red or blue. Having done that the window sills which were rust stained were in need of repainting. The new village signs were excellently presented in their small landscaped area, on the excellent roadside verges on each approach road. At the Community Hall the metal window shutters should be painted. What about using a strong colour such as red or blue? Having done that the window sills that were rust stained will need to be painted. The School nearby was attractively presented with some flower displays adding a nice touch of colour. The nearby stone walls of the Church grounds were much admired. St.

Mary's Church is really a beautiful building so excellently presented. The proportions of that Church are so good.

Landscaping:

Your committee has made a big commitment to landscaping, and the regular maintenance of that landscaping. A number of raised stone landscaped areas were noted. These were most colourful and the colour complimented the warm tones of the stone. The seating near Lisheen Park had been freshly painted and look most inviting on a very warm summer's day! The Grotto makes a big visual statement in landscaping terms and it was beautifully presented on adjudication day. The Church car park trees are maturing nicely. The car park itself was very neat and tidy.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Stephenstown Nature Pond area was very busy on adjudication day and approximately 35 cars were present. This wildlife area has been so well laid out, and the variation of wildlife present was quite remarkable. The new interpretative building was under development at the time of adjudication, and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this building and exhibition when completed. The overall presentation of the total Stephenstown Nature Pond was excellent. The adjudicator wished that he could increase your marks under this heading but he could not - you reached the limit of 30 in 2004. Congratulations - this very rarely happens under any Tidy Towns Category.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication, apart from some litter noted on the Louth approach road. This standard is hard to maintain, and do make sure that you have a detailed litter control policy in your revised Tidy Towns Action Plan.

Tidiness:

Knockbridge was very tidy on adjudication day. Like the situation in regard to litter control, the control of tidiness is also quite difficult as you may have discovered already. Well done to the total community on achieving such high standards in this regard.

Residential Areas:

Lisroland View was excellently presented and the grass areas were much admired by your adjudicator. The slopes built into the various grass areas have added much to the overall appearance here. The young trees here are maturing nicely. Lisheen Park also look very well. Other private properties were well presented and a number were obviously freshly painted recently. Some very attractive gardens were also noted, and the landscaping work by property owners contributes in an important way to the overall character of your village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new village signs looked very well and they have been incorporated in an attractive way into the landscaped approach roads. Approach roads were very well presented and are obviously being maintained on a regular basis.

General Impression:

The adjudicator looks forward to your continued success in the Tidy Towns Competition. At the level that you have reached in the competition the issue is one of paying attention to all categories where

marks are awarded in the competition, and developing all of them in tandem. Attention to detail will continue to be of major importance.

Second Round Adjudication:

Knockbridge looked really well on the day of second adjudication; colourful flower displays gave rise to a cheerful ambience which was complemented by the nicely white washed buildings at the crossroads.

The roadside boundary of the mill complex is beautifully landscaped which contrasts with the boundary and curtilage treatment of a commercial premises on the northern approach; a recently painted commercial premises on the latter road was noted.

Work in progress at the entrance to the sports grounds was observed, we anticipate a successful outcome for next year. Verges in the environs of Stephenstown Pond were overgrown and a young tree on the northern approach road should be repositioned; the site of the Chuchulain bronze was a disappointment.

Litter control at the entrance to the Gate Lodge was weak but was excellent elsewhere.

Advance notice and / or signage for the car park at the pond development should be provided and eventually a footpath should link the village to this important amenity.