

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annalore**

Ref: **717**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **196**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	196	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Tidy Towns Committee for the supporting documentation. Your Tidy Towns Action Plan for the period 2005 - 2007 is a simple practicable and straight forward document with achievable objectives.

The Built Environment:

This is a really attractive small village but the provision by the Local Authority of village name signs and speed limit signs must be considered priorities. The successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3-5 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local School
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

It is encouraging to see this year the road tarring works have been completed on both sides of the village. The bridge is the central feature of the village and the ivy along the top and side of the bridge was admired by the adjudicator. Natural landscaping such as that is always much more effective than artificial landscaping. Again this year the area by the river at the commercial yard need some attention as the view from the bridge down to this area is not especially attractive. Perhaps some straight forward work on site works here including some screening may be possible. This would represent a really worth while contribution to the work of the Tidy Towns Committee. The adjudicator wondered if this was an old mill area, and if the village grew up as a result of the presence of the mill? If so then the provision of an information panel at a safe location near the bridge might be worth considering.

A derelict building was noted that detracts from the overall appearance of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps the owner can make a feature of this building pending 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. It would make a great contribution to your work.

Landscaping:

The natural landscaping at Annalore is spectacular with many mature trees of differing species combined with naturally occurring colourful shrubs. Especially along the Shades the natural cover here is quite unusual. At the road junction at the start of the Shades the tall trees here and wild roses combined with a carefully maintained grass area makes this a very attractively landscaped area. On the river bank opposite the private lawn running down to the river there may be potential to create a riverside landscaped area. You might consider discussing this with your Local Authority. Safety issues will also have to be taken into consideration.

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 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 on 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.

Litter Control:

A little litter was noted in the river bed but otherwise litter control was very good on the day of adjudication. The volume of passing traffic through the village makes your performances on the issue of litter control all the more admirable.

Tidiness:

Annalore is a very tidy village with the exception of the area below the river discussed elsewhere in this report. The Clones road directional road sign has been attractively inserted into the hedging at this point. Some tidying of the river bed is required, especially on the side with the old stone building. Some dead grass and weeds at the low stone wall leading to the bridge on the Clones side need to be removed as they looked quite untidy. Some of the road-signs need to be washed and perhaps replaced.

Residential Areas:

The few properties in the village all contribute to the overall positive appearance of the village. The landscaping of these properties contributes also to the character of the village. Hopefully some landscaping can be done by the owners of the derelict property in the vicinity of that property.

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 town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them. Your two main approach roads have good potential and the area to be maintained is not too extensive. Again this is a matter that should be discussed with your Local Authority. Can you make a rule for yourselves and your helpers that all cut grass must be taken away on the day that it is cut. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower.

General Impression:

Annalore is a very attractive small village with great character and it does have good potential in the future in the Tidy Towns Competition. Well done to everyone involved in the good work!

Second Round Adjudication: