

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inniskeen**

Ref: **426**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **214**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	31
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was delighted to have the opportunity of returning to Inniskeen after a period of about 40 years since the previous visit. On that occasion he was involved with two others in a reading of 'The Great Hunger' in the Community Centre! Inniskeen has come so far since those days.

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

A roughly drawn map was supplied with the entry form but unfortunately was of little assistance to the adjudicator.

Because of the lack of a Tidy Towns Action Plan and supporting documentation it was difficult for the adjudicator to see what work was done specifically for this year's Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Inniskeen is a large village of great character that it much more than just the village itself. The approach roads that have been worked on so far out into the beautiful countryside, together with the Patrick Kavanagh Trail, give the sense that the village is much larger than it is. Well done, because that feeling is very difficult to achieve.

Inniskeen has a really great sense of community and the adjudicator feels that that probably comes from the local pride in the work of Patrick Kavanagh. The modern design of the Catholic Church is most striking, and was like many other building well presented. The children's Playground also looked well, though some litter was noted there. A beautiful stone building was noted opposite the school, one of a number of fine buildings in the village and surrounds.

The Community Centre looked really well as did the very large parking area at Magees. However the building that stood out was Daniel McNello & Co with the fine stone and use of red paint. This building would be improved further with the removal of the two projecting plastic signs.

Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme. After all Patrick Kavanagh did write about gates - timber gates.

Are there any plans to re-roof the old Church and fine a new community use for it?

Landscaping:

There were many small and some large landscaped areas that really caught the eye on adjudication day. On the Dundalk approach the area by the Grotto was excellently presented, and across the road from the Church the seat in its landscaped setting was most attractive. In the centre of the village landscaping appeared to be every where - well presented grass areas, flower tubs, hanging baskets and ground displays. In the village area the road junction to an estate was superbly presented - beautiful lush well cut grass, hanging baskets, and the old pump.

On the riverside walk and the Pitch & Putt Course area the landscaping was very well presented, combined with the natural trees and shrubs. What was remarkable was how far out from the village centre the landscaping extended.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Fayne River Walk is potentially a most interesting area for wildlife and the information plaque here was very interesting. There is potential here to develop some ponds or backwater areas that may further encourage wildlife. 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.

Litter Control:

In overall terms litter control o adjudication day was quite good. However litter was noted caught in the stone chops on the left hand side on the Dundalk approach. Further litter was noted at the Bring Centre and a lot of litter was noted at the School sign opposite the Community Centre. Unfortunately a lot of litter was noted on the River Fayne Walk and along by the Pitch & Putt Course.

It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your town / village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generates of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

Tidiness:

An untidy gate area was noted just beyond the Grotto on the Dundalk approach. A vans and trucks area just beyond that looked a little untidy. In the village area an untidy space was noted in front of the old cottages and behind the four flower tubs. An area where water pipes were stacked was noted near the Speed Limit Signs just beyond the old railway bridge. On the Fayne River Walk the area around the Portacabin was very untidy.

Residential Areas:

The majority of private properties were well presented and a number were obviously freshly painted recently. Some attractive gardens were also noted, and the colourful landscaping work by property owners contributes in an important way to the overall character of your village. The row of older properties opposite the GAA ground were well presented and again great landscaping was noted here. At Dun Ard well cut grass is a feature, but the overall impact was slightly diminished by the fact that the grass had not been cut back from the top of the kerb stones.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Very good sign posting is a feature of Inniskeen and the brown and white signs are very effective. The main approach roads were excellently presented and landscaping extends far out beyond the village centre. On the road in by the Patrick Kavanagh Resource Centre little recent work appeared to have been done on the banks and verges.

General Impression:

The overall impression that one gets of Inniskeen is that of a community working together to make their place a better place. Congratulations to everyone involved in the work on the village environment, and in the preservation of the name of Patrick Kavanagh.

Second Round Adjudication: