

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tydavnet**

Ref: **446**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **214**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the village map and 2005 work programme that accompanied your entry form. 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.

The Built Environment:

Tydavnet is a village of great character that is emphasised by the great work that you have done on landscaping throughout the village. The Community Centre building caught the eye on arrival in Tydavnet and the method used to display the building name in English and Irish is imaginative and very effective, it was easily read from a distance. It was good to see that the Irish language was not forgotten here. One of your important projects is the provision of historical plaques. Those at the Emyvale junction and at the School re really excellent and keep alive important aspects of the history of the village. The cobble-lock paved areas looked very neat and tidy and visually provide an excellent break between the road and other areas.

The Sliabh Beagh map is a most useful facility. One suggestion for here is to provide some slabs at the map so that visitors will not have to stand on your lovely grass to read the map. Your project on the old cemetery is a worthwhile one and hopefully your plans for that area will come to early fruition.

Landscaping:

Your landscaping work in Tydavnet and on approach roads looked really well on adjudication day. The work that you have done on the stone flower and plant containers all adds up to a great overall effect. The landscaping at the Tydavnet information panel set of that area quite attractively, as did other areas of landscaping in the village. Landscaping should never be an end in itself; it should help to highlight the character of a town or village. That concept appeared to be well understood in Tydavnet. The landscaping at the school enhanced the well presented school and surroundings. The pump with the well built stone surround and concrete capping again preserves a little part of the history of your village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife plaque at the School is well designed and very interesting. However it is recommended that it be moved closer to the car park area so that it is possible to study the contents more closely. 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.

Litter Control:

The new anti litter signs are to the point and well presented. Litter control on adjudication day was extremely good; congratulations to the whole community for their care and attention to this highly important issue. Do you involve school children in your anti-litter activities. If not you might consider how best the children can help your efforts.

Tidiness:

The Bring Centre at the Community Centre was exceptionally neat and tidy. The adjudicator nominated this Bring Centre for the National Best Bring Bank Award, and this was considered among the many other applications from around the country. Generally Tydavneyt was exceptionally tidy on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

A new housing development of 28 houses was noted and this is to be welcomed, however the provision of appropriate landscaping by the developer is of crucial importance. If you have not already done so your Committee might talk to your Local Authority to discuss the issue of landscaping by builders of future developments should they arise. Perhaps this can best be delivered through the Planning Conditions process.

All private houses in the village were well presented and a number were obviously freshly painted recently. Some 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:

Your approach roads are characterised by high nearly vertical banks with narrow or non existent verges. Very good work was done on the approach roads but the work on banks and verges might be taken out a little further on each of the approach roads. On the Monaghan approach road the well maintained hedging is a fine feature.

General Impression:

Tydavnet is a beautiful village that is obviously receiving great care and attention from a very united community. Congratulations to everyone involved on a job so well done.

Second Round Adjudication: