

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Curraghboy**

Ref: **286**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **187**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	15	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	187	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Curraghboy is a welcome new entry to the National Tidy Towns Competition in this year of 2005. The village is located on the R362 just off the N61 and lies in close proximity to the natural amenities of two important lakes. It is also close to the major town of Athlone. At the time of adjudication there were a number of new residential developments in Curraghboy which probably represent commuter housing for people working in Athlone. The major challenge facing the Curraghboy community over the next number of years will be to integrate the new residents into the social fabric of the community, so that the village will not lose its heritage and sense of itself and eventually become just another commuter village. Thank you for your photographic record of works that have been accomplished since 2003, they are a valuable record and show how far the village has come in a short period of time.

The Built Environment:

Well done on an excellent presentation of the church, the school and indeed the old school. MacDermotts was particularly admired but some sections of its planted area to the roadside edge were a bit weedy. McHughs premises looked well also as did Mentons Post Office, however the latter was a little weather stained and may need attention for next year's Competition. It is interesting to note that the Post Office has been run by the Menton family for over one hundred years, perhaps this information could be featured on an appropriate plaque at the shop. Your account of the tradition of handball in Curraghboy is also interesting and the replacement of the old handball alley

by a new indoor alley with meeting rooms in 1989 gives an insight into the life of the community which is not immediately obvious for the travelling public. Well done also on the plaque listing the townlands of the parish at the church. Perhaps an appropriate plaque could be located at the water pump giving an account of the importance of this facility in the social fabric of the village for the past one hundred years.

Landscaping:

The two mature specimen trees within the stone enclosure located across from the shops on the main street are a valuable part of the heritage of Curraghboy. The community should strive to provide a similar heritage for future generations in your landscaping programme. Choose sites for tree planting carefully and choose native species as these will be supportive of wildlife, where possible choose trees that grow naturally in the surrounding countryside. Greater emphasis should be placed on planting for seasonal interest as this ensures colour and interest in the winter and spring as well as in summer and autumn and emphasis, as already noted, should be placed on native species. The landscaping between McHughs and Mentons was admired. Additional landscaping could be provided for the school. The container planting in the grounds of the church and the school looked well. Hopefully the lime trees referred to in your submission will be part of Curraghboy's heritage within the next hundred years.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note with interest your reference to an organic garden in the Curraghboy National School and would love to have details of the wildlife that is attracted to this garden. Perhaps such could be submitted with next year's application. It may be taken on as a school project. Habitats in the pond in the church ground might similarly be identified and submitted next year. It is this type of activity that earns marks under this heading. We note from your map that you are situated in close proximity to a small lake, perhaps within walking distance and perhaps a signposted walk to Slí na Sláinte standards from the village to the lake would be appropriate and possibly a nature trail developed for added interest. Again you are referred to your Tidy Towns Handbook for details on how to compete under this heading.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Curraghboy, well done. Your weekly clean-ups are most effective. Do you have a daily litter picking rota also? If so, these details should be submitted in the coming years together with details of your overall litter management strategy and details of the nature and extent of the problem of litter control and maintenance as this type of information can earn you additional marks.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of Curraghboy is one of tidiness and it is good to note from your submission that kerbs and roadsides are sprayed twice yearly and walls and buildings are painted annually. We also note that you have applied for a recycling facility and expect this to materialise in the not too distant future. When this is in place, it is important to ensure that its surrounds are not spoiled by unsightly overflow or dumping.

Residential Areas:

The majority of dwellings are presented to the highest standard and gardens were admired, two in particular looked especially well, one at each end of the village. A number of boundary walls were in need of attention. It is important to remind residents of the need to present their boundary walls to a high standard and to take responsibility for the roadside area to their boundary wall. Many new residential developments were noted in the village and most are nicely presented to date. As noted previously the challenge here is to integrate new residents into the social fabric of the community

and to encourage them to participate in the Tidy Towns so that Curraghboy can move on to new levels within the Competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Curraghboy has performed to a high standard under this heading. Road surfaces and footpaths in the village centre were second to none in the country. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free status of your main street together with new lampstandards. The recently refurbished stretch of stone wall along the length of the village on its main street was admired. The water pump looks well also. In all a standard of excellence has been achieved for the village centre. Approach roads to the town tell a very different story. In most instances they are badly presented. Road edges appear to have been dug up recently and restored badly. No doubt this is due to all the redevelopment in the village centre and can thus be accounted for. We note from your plan that one of your objectives is to bring approach roads to the same high standards that have been achieved for the main street and we wish you well in this regard. Nameplates looked well.

General Impression:

The first impression of Curraghboy is negative from the perspective of the travelling public due to the appearance of approach roads, particularly at the Athlone end of the village. On arrival in the village centre one is immediately surprised by the excellent quality of the environment. Well done to all concerned in this redevelopment and good luck in achieving the standards for approach roads that have been achieved in the village centre.

Second Round Adjudication: