

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Frenchpark**

Ref: **347**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **184**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184	179

Overall Developmental Approach:

Frenchpark is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included application form and map. You do need to send in a copy of your plan each year or a summary and we did not receive one from you for this year. The village is in a transition period with the amount of residential development it appears to be growing and it is important to ensure that recreation amenity facilities and other infrastructural services will be available for the growing community. Perhaps you could provide an information panel outlining your Douglas Hyde connection and heritage.

The Built Environment:

Your new Childcare Centre has been considered for the Architectural and Sustainable Development Award. The school and grounds on the N5 looks well also. We note the lack of progress on the redevelopment of Market House and continue to hope that some of its heritage features will be retained. A number of unpainted weather stained premises in the village centre have been noted and property owners should be encouraged to upgrade these. The nameless hair salon was quite shabby in its appearance. The boundary wall of the church is beginning to look a little weather stained. Encourage pub owners to get rid of their dated beer signs.

Landscaping:

Well done on work to date on the maintenance of grassed areas within the village and the continued maintenance of shrubs and trees. Landscaping at the new Childcare Centre looks well, hopefully it will be allowed to mature well and will enjoy good maintenance. Landscaping at the crossroads, particularly at the corner of the Nash Memorial Park was attractive and colourful. There are many stands of mature trees and hedgerow both in the village and on approach roads which are part of our heritage from previous generations. The committee should put together a landscaping plan which will provide a heritage for future generations.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Nash Memorial Park which accommodates the playing fields is a fine natural amenity to have in the village centre and is being well maintained. There are no details in your submission of activities under this heading. Again you are reminded of your Tidy Towns Handbook, this will provide you with lots of ideas of how to get started on a wildlife project. Perhaps something as simple as identifying the local wildflowers or wild birds in gardens would be a good place to start. The important thing to understand is that existing wildlife should be protected from the impact of on-going development and should be promoted in order to heighten the community's awareness of the value of wildlife and how it can enhance our own quality of life.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on adjudication day, both in the village centre and on approach roads. A few papers were being blown about by the wind but there appears to be no serious problem under this heading. Bear in mind that additional marks can also be earned by giving us information on your litter control activities and your litter management strategy. We note from your submission that you have worked to acquire new litter bins and that you organise a campaign on litter control awareness.

Tidiness:

A rubble filled site located across the road from the nameplate on the Castlerea road was untidy and was matched only by the undeveloped curtilage area to the building on the N5 which accommodates the Demense Design sign. The latter premises was noted in last year's report also, however the repetition is necessary. The vacant building on the Boyle road has been imaginatively treated, however it is beginning to look a little dirty again. We note your Bring Centre in the handball alley. Whilst there was no dumping here and it was quite neat, the mounds of gravel chipping and other buildings materials is problematic under this heading.

Residential Areas:

Encourage property owners to maintain the roadside areas to the boundary walls of their gardens. A case in point are the two new dwellings under the course of development on the entrance from the Boyle road at the nameplate. It would be visually pleasing if their roadside areas to their boundary walls were grassed. Abbey Court is a small, neat development in the centre and another unidentified small development out the Castlerea road looked well also. An Choirrsceach is a fine development and is being nicely maintained. The road surface in a small estate near the handball alley / Bring Bank is, in the opinion of this adjudicator, the worst in the country.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The town enjoys the status of being wirescape free and the modern lampstandards are beautiful. Most street furniture is well presented. Some resurfacing work is necessary for the hard shoulder on the entrance from the Boyle road. A well surfaced stretch of footpath and a neatly maintained verge together with attractive stone wall all combine to 'lift' this entrance to Frenchpark. Verges of all approach roads were overgrown at the time of adjudication but not greatly so, they just didn't look crisp. Nameplates are well presented.

General Impression:

Frenchpark suffers problems from through traffic and being located on a national primary route. It is difficult to maintain buildings to a high standard and ensure a good quality of life for the community with this type of location, however the village is looking well. Hopefully, with the proposed realignment of the N5, it will make Frenchpark a safer place in which to live.

Second Round Adjudication: