

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Keadue**

Ref: **379**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **276**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	28
Litter Control	40	39	39
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	276	273

Overall Developmental Approach:

Keadue is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and excellent plan, we wish you well in its implementation. Congratulations on a fine achievement in winning Ireland's Best Kept Town in the 32 counties in 2004, we are really proud of you. The village demonstrates a good relationship to local amenities of the area, both the Miners Way Walk and Lough Meelagh and of course Knockranny Woods. There are wonderful views out of the village to surrounding countryside hills and woodland areas which are complemented beautifully by the excellent presentation of the village itself. The community is obviously aware of its heritage as is evidenced in the O'Carolan Memorial Park and the Court Cairn in Knockranny Wood.

The Built Environment:

Both the church and the school together with St. Ronan's Hall and all business premises are presented to an excellent standard. Everyone concerned is to be commended. Side and curtilage areas in general are all being beautifully maintained on an on-going basis. It was good to note the new sign on O'Donnells and indeed the new hand carved sign for gifts and general goods on Roddy's Harp and Shamrock Lounge Bar. The old lamp here in the circular frame is a nice touch.

Landscaping:

It would seem that every conceivable corner of Keadue and its approach roads/entrances feature colourful flower displays in containers, all of which present a treat for the eye. At the time of first adjudication the hanging baskets were not quite as profuse as they could be, however no doubt by the time of second adjudication they will be in full bloom. You have achieved a good balance between flower planting, permanent planting and plants for seasonal interest. You have also ensured a heritage for future generations in your tree planting programme, congratulations. The themed garden at the junction with the Boyle road was admired and, of course, your O'Carolan Park is being beautifully maintained we note your plan to commission a wood sculptor to design and carve a plaque in oak depicting Turlough O'Carolan, Kilonan Castle and the Arigna Coalmines. Green roadside verges on all entrances and within the village centre are being maintained to a standard of excellence.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your work in relation to fallen trees in Knockranny Woods and access to the Court Cairn, this is a valuable initiative. We also note with interest your plans for the further development of Lough Meelagh as an amenity facility with proposals for fishing stands, new pier and slipways. We look forward to charting your progress within this respect. The Loop Walk to the Arigna Miners Way connecting it with Knockranny Woods is an exciting initiative. Well done on work achieved to date at the sports grounds and again, we look forward with enthusiasm to the completion of phase two of the project. It is good to note that the lake is now visible from the public road, thanks to the youths of Keadue and their work in this area; we observed the No Shooting sign and its designation as a wildlife area. The information panel on the wildlife of the lake is being well maintained.

Litter Control:

Litter control was perfect on the day of first adjudication, the only item of litter being a red plastic bottle which had been discarded in the church grounds. We appreciate the intensity your campaign to obliterate all kinds of litter and understand the difficulty posed by through traffic. You are correct on placing special emphasis on the education of young people in this respect.

Tidiness:

You are aware of problematic areas under this heading. A premises on the Carrick On Shannon Road at the nameplate presents a problem as does a vacant / derelict premises on the Drumshanbo Road. Do you have recycling facilities? These have not been noted, perhaps you could encourage the business community to take part in the Race Against Waste initiative?

Residential Areas:

Lios Beag has grown since this adjudicator's last visit; new houses have been noted and their gardens have yet to be developed, is the development set to grow further? The large green area, although trimmed at its roadside edge is underdeveloped. Hopefully this will be landscaped in due course. One or two dwellings in the village centre are in need of cleaning and / or painting as appropriate and the entrance to a driveway was in need of resurfacing. Gardens of residential properties on approach roads were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads to the village are neatly presented at their roadside verges and entrances are clearly defined and enhanced. Street furniture including nameplates enjoy a good standard of presentation and your townland plaques throughout are a nice touch. The car park at the lake is tidy and has a relatively good surface although we note your plan to have this resurfaced. Congratulations on areas of footpath which have been refurbished, we wish you well with your future plans in this regard.

General Impression:

Adjudication of Keadue always elicits a promise to oneself to return for pleasure rather than for work, this visit is no exception. The wild duck on the lake was particularly enjoyed by this adjudicator and one day time allowing it is hoped to take in the three hour walks around the wilderness of the lakeshore. A fine overall presentation and congratulations again.

Second Round Adjudication:

The entrance road on the Carrick on Shannon approach creates a good impression for the visitor, as it sports just the right level of landscaping, including stone walling, well cut grass verges and a magnificent display of hydrangeas, giving it a very welcoming appearance. The buildings of the village were maintained to the usual high standard expected of Keadue - St Ronan's Hall, especially looked very fresh in its prominent location. The village looked especially well given the fact that it was experiencing its busiest time of the year with the O Carolan Festival. The park dedicated to the blind harpist, in its central location, was as well maintained as ever! The village has a keen sense of its heritage as witnessed by this event, the marvellous Knockranny Woods, Lakeside Crannogs, Arigna Miner's Way etc. Your plans to link these two features are to be applauded. You also show a keen awareness of your natural environment in terms of the maintenance of the Woods, Lakeside and associated wildlife. The initiative to use reed - beds in your sewage scheme is also a marvellous one! Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction work is complete- sand was spotted in the car park area of the tennis courts! A new road surface was noted on the Boyle side of village. The adjudicator was delighted to hear of your well - deserved success in the Best Kept Towns Competition.