

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughglynn**

Ref: **731**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **167**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	24	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	28	23
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	167	156

Overall Developmental Approach:

Loughglynn is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. In order to progress substantially in the competition, you need a planned work programme spanning the next three to five years. It is difficult to improve on your performance without one. The village is situated in woodland countryside and could use this to its advantage in the competition and also to improve quality of life and recreational amenity facilities for the growing community. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for the preparation of a plan which should be based on a good survey of the existing built and natural environment.

The Built Environment:

Most premises are reasonably well presented. We note the new Community Centre project, work was in progress on adjudication day and we look forward to the completion of this valuable development. The school looked well being brightly painted and neatly presented. The church looked well but was rather stark in appearance and perhaps additional landscaping or flower displays would add much needed colour here. The oversized plastic neon signs for Creatons should be removed altogether and the sign for The Village Inn was in need of refurbishment.

Landscaping:

Older landscaped areas are maturing nicely and balance the many untidy and neglected looking sites around the village. Newly landscaped areas are too immature to make a strong visual impact but over time they will continue to enhance their immediate surroundings and the village as a whole. Do try to keep landscaping to native trees and shrubs as these are supportive of wildlife and think of how landscaped areas will look in spring and winter as well as summer, so plant for seasonal interest.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not present a project under this heading. The approach roads to the village exhibit displays of wildflower, particularly the Ballinlough road. As you are surrounded by woodland areas, and again a woodland area was noted out the Ballinlough road, there will be many woodland habitats for many species of animal and a wide variety of plants also. A good place to start would be to conduct a wildlife survey and to take steps to protect existing wildlife from future development and to promote an awareness of wildlife for the benefit it brings to the quality of life for the community. Perhaps a good place to start would be the creation of a wildlife garden or other suitable project in the school grounds.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent, well done. For such a small village and on a busy thoroughfare, this is a fine achievement. We note your request to the County Council for litter bins. Do keep us informed of your other litter management activities and in particular your overall litter management strategy as this can be the source of additional marks.

Tidiness:

Well done on your Bring Bank, it enjoys a terrific location and is extremely tidy with no evidence of dumping or overflowing. It has been considered for the New Repak Bring Bank Award. That is probably the only positive thing that can be said under this heading. The open storage of goods on an undeveloped site on the Main Street is an eyesore and is matched only by untidy yards to the commercial premises which include what appears to be derelict vehicles on the Ballinalough road. Derelict / vacant premises have also been noted together with derelict remains of buildings. Given the demand for prime development sites, these problem areas may be developed in the not too distant future and provide the solution for everyone.

Residential Areas:

Older dwellings continue to look well, the majority being nicely painted with neat gardens and, in some cases, very beautiful gardens. Newer residential developments such as Woodland Drive are sitting comfortably into their surroundings. Whilst unfinished housing developments, on which work is still in progress, have been noted and no doubt these will be landscaped before being taken over and new residents will show a strong commitment to their upkeep and maintenance. Hopefully new residents will join the Tidy Towns Committee in enhancing the environment of Loughglynn.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most stretches of road surface along the main road are quite good and the public car park with the Bring Bank is beautifully surfaced and lined. Stretches of footpath including inner unsurfaced paths have been sprayed for weeds and not been cleared. This looks quite unsightly. The petrol pumps at Creations are in need of refurbishment. Other items of street furniture such as nameplates look well. A litter bin on a post is in need of cleaning.

General Impression:

Loughglynn is undergoing a transition from a small rural village to a commuter village. This presents both opportunities and challenges. The opportunity provided is to recreate the village whilst retaining what is best about it and building for the future. The challenge, of course, will be to integrate new residents into the social and cultural life of the community. Thank you for your participation.

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Second Round Adjudication: