

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banada - Tourlestrane**

Ref: **431**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **176**

Category: **A**

Date: **23/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	176	178

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for your documentation and the details of the proposed tourism amenity. The adjudicator has some experience of visitor centre development and wonders if the viability of the proposed Ancient Ireland Theme Park have been examined. There is the point as to why imitation structures are proposed when the visitor can see excellent examples of the real structures in the county? The adjudicator notes the comments by your adjudicator in 2004 about your entry. It seems very clear to this adjudicator that Banada and Tourlestrane are two separate communities with separate village signs. The existing combination is over one mile in length. It is appreciated that the two communities have worked together on the provision of some excellent social facilities for the two communities. However in Tidy Towns terms using separate competition entries might be to the benefit of both communities. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. 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.

The Built Environment:

The School and nearby Community Centre were neatly presented and the Community Centre makes excellent use of colour. At the School the railing should be painted in perhaps blue or red. The Hall

at the Abbey, sign-posted from the main road, appeared to be in poor condition and the surrounding area was in need of some attention. Perhaps it is no longer used for community purposes. The new surfacing at the GAA car park looks really well and had just been finished at adjudication time. A few derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built environment of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

Landscaping:

The Peace Garden area at the bridge is outstanding and is extremely well designed. You have managed to incorporate a lot into this relatively small space. The end result is extremely pleasing. However, in some places grass and weeds are coming through the gravel paths and the glass in one of the lights is damaged.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that you have begun to work on the issue of wildlife. 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 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 local person who might undertake this task for you. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different times. Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be to draft a straightforward Plan to preserve the identified habitats and investigate the possibility of creating 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 are teachers 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. The river in your village has excellent potential to become a really important natural amenity. You should start by organising a major river clean up. Landscaping of the river bank areas should then follow, with the provision perhaps of appropriate seating.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted at the Bring Centre and in various parts of the mile or so roadway between the two parts of your entry. The provision of new litter bins was noted from your Entry Form.

Tidiness:

Watch out for weed growth at the base of walls and in any casual open spaces in your long entry. The two derelict cars should be removed or screened from view at the property near the Abbey entrance. Some directional road signs need to be washed and re-painted.

Residential Areas:

The Housing Association has done good work and the development at Tourlestrane is evidence of this. Private houses were well presented, neat and tidy and some appear to have been freshly painted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most of the verges and banks on approach roads had been cut. However the cut grass was not removed leading to a very untidy appearance. Verges need to be cut on a very regular basis, perhaps every few weeks if a lush neat green appearance is to be achieved.

General Impression:

Do as recommended last year and get your Tidy Towns Action Plan under way and consider the issue of whether to use two separate entries as recommended by this adjudicator.

Second Round Adjudication: