

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carney**

Ref: **427**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **226**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>222</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Carney is a most attractive village with a real sense of community. Hopefully the character of this village is not threatened seriously by the major housing development now under way.

Thank you for the documentation received with your Application Form. The Tidy Towns Plan is an excellent straight forward document that illustrates clearly your vision for the future.

The adjudicator is concerned to note the relatively low level of support locally that your efforts seem to be getting. The Tidy Towns concept is important for the total community and not just the Committee. They are working in a voluntary way to make your community a better place for everyone.

### The Built Environment:

The attractive village signs in both English and Irish are a nice welcoming feature as you enter the village. Generally property in Carney is well presented and maintained. However the single storey yellow building needs to be painted in the near future. A derelict cottage was noted that detracts 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 this building pending its removal or restoration. Can you get the owner 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 in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective. There is generally a good use of colour in Carney and this gives the village a great bright welcoming appearance.

## **Landscaping:**

Great work has been done by the Committee in terms of landscaping. Many flower boxes were noted throughout the village. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your village. Your adjudicator is of the view that there is a danger that there will be an overuse of flower tubs / containers in the village. However the work that you have done adds so much colour to your very attractive village.

The FRiverside Park is a beautiful development that is being well maintained. It was joy to walk along this area on adjudication to the sound of the river, the birds singing and the beautiful wild flowers along the river bank area. However the seats in this area need to be painted and some further grass cutting along the river bank is required.

Excellent landscaping along the approach from Drumcliff was noted at at the bridge itself there is a great sense of colour as you enter the village.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The river bank planting is noted as are your plans to develop river pools.

It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further 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 – river, ponds
- 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 person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of 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 is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be 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.

## **Litter Control:**

You are monitoring the issue of litter closely and this was obvious on adjudication day as the village centre was relatively free of litter. Litter was however noted on the Bundoran approach road and is possibly associated with the major works under way in that area. The organised clean-ups that your committee runs from time to time is a good way of trying to get others involved in your work for the community.

## **Tidiness:**

The weed control programme appears to be having some success. However weed growth was noted at some road boundary. On the Drumcliff approach the timber fencing should be replaced by a low stone wall to match the existing stone wall near here. Beer barrels were being stored in public view and perhaps an alternative storage can be used. Projecting advertising signs were noted in a number of locations in the village and this needs attention. The issue is how many of these signs are really essential from a commercial point of view? The large open space opposite Laura's looks quite untidy and the wire fencing should be replaced with timber fencing that has first been treated. A lot of weedkiller is being used in Carney but do remember that the dead weeds must then be removed. In a large open space in one of the housing estates weedkiller has been used but now this open space must receive landscaping attention. Extensive weed and grass growth was noted at the Yeats United car park.

## **Residential Areas:**

A number of private properties caught the eye on adjudication day including the ivy covered house, and the cottage on the Raghly road. A fine stone property was noted opposite this cottage and the fine lawn is an attractive feature.

Name signs are required for most housing estates. A lot of weed growth was noted in Orchard Grove. The completed estate on the Bundoran road was well presented and the large green area with the young trees is being very well maintained. Hopefully proper landscaping will be in place before the builders leave the new estate development now under way on the Bundoran road.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Drumcliff approach road was excellently presented, as was the Raghly approach. However little work appears to have been done on the Bundoran approach road, and there is probably little that you can do until the building work is completed. You have not lost marks because of this. No work has been done on the long straight approach road that joins the Bundoran road at the new housing development now under way.

## **General Impression:**

Carney is a delightful village and well done on your achievements to date. Do not over do the use of flower baskets, tubs etc.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Carney was presented to a high standard for second adjudication; landscaping throughout the village was admired and permanent planting was complemented by colourful flower displays; grassed verges and banks were well maintained and wild hedgerow of dog-rose and montebretia completed the picture. The proposed section of river bank for the creation of a herb garden for culinary and medicinal use is exciting, we look forward to reaping the benefits in future visits.

The proposed shore walk from the village is a welcome initiative; forward a map next year illustrating the exact location so that it may be assessed in the competition. A bird hide is suggested at Ballygilgen corner to take full advantage of your most welcome wild fowl visitors; we would be interested to learn of the outcome of the provision of your bat-boxes.

Is there a possibility that the site located opposite Lauras public house could be developed as a community park? with the expected growth in population Carney will need such a development.

As the dated Guinness sign on Lauras public house is upside-down now would be a good time to remove it.