

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange**

Ref: **489**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **218**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>213</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Grange for the first time on a fine June morning. The additional documentation referred to in the letter had not arrived by the time of adjudication. Therefore no map was available and the additional documentation could not be examined. However the adjudicator examined the village in detail and you are to be congratulated on what your committee has achieved so far.

A Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry form.

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.

Presumably you do have such a plan as reference was made to it in your 2004 Tidy Towns Report. Your committee is very active in fund raising, and obviously you have excellent working relationship with the various agencies that can help you. Congratulations non your highly progressive approach.

Problems that you may have are appreciated and these include the fact that your village is located on a very fast stretch of road and that you have high traffic volumes passing through daily.

## **The Built Environment:**

Grange village is very unusual in that there are a number of buildings both public and private that have very interesting architectural features. Examples include Sligo Aluminium with a very modern frontage to the building that fits comfortably into the village. The school has an unusual roof design and the Texaco Station has simple clean and very effective architectural lines. Other buildings that caught the eye for was Wheeler Restaurant and the private house and landscaped grounds at the junction to Streedagh. The restaurant property is a modern building excellently presented. Among the older properties that stood out was The Drapery / John Lang's, another property that was really excellently presented.

Opposite the Texaco property some gable walls facing in the Sligo direction need to be painted.

A derelict building was noted on the Streedagh approach road on the right hand side, and another at the rear of the Costello property.

The Spanish Armada plaques at the village entrance signs are an excellent concept, and it is great to see the village so aware of the history that surrounds them. Another example of this is the fine statue in the Town Park.

## **Landscaping:**

Fine well maintained landscaping is one of the distinguishing features of Grange. The Town Park is a superb development generally well presented. At the path by the river some nettles should be removed and there appears to have been an extensive use recently of weed killer. The dead grass will have to be removed as a matter of urgency as it detracts from the overall presentation of this fine public area. The various historic plaques here add much additional interest. The lighting units mounted in the pathway are potentially dangerous as they are not sealed on top, and they are gathering litter. The completion of this project is therefore urgent.

The landscaped village signs with the Spanish Armada plaques were very well presented and created a nice welcome to your village.

A number of really well landscaped areas in the village were visited and all are being excellently maintained, For example the landscaped area on the Bundoran approach road. creates a fine approach to the village.

There does not appear to be a pathway through the Wildflower Refuge area and this might be considered at some time.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

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
- 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.

The river in your town 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:**

Litter control on adjudication day was generally quite good. Some litter was noted on the Bundoran approach road and in the Town Park. Do you have enough litter bins?

### **Tidiness:**

The side across the road from the Texaco property looked quite untidy and the entrance area should be screened from view. The very large open space opposite SF Engineering looked quite untidy and will be a difficulty for the committee in terms of greater progress in the Tidiness category in the competition.

At the Streedagh road junction the sign-posting needs to be rationalised. The adjudicator counted 10 different signs here of many different designs. On the BUndoran approach road the rusty fencing opposite the Grange sign should be removed and replaced with perhaps timber fencing. On the road which has the Grange Pharmacy a very untidy open space was noted opposite the long white property. Can this be screened from view pending development?

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties both single houses and estate developments were generally very well presented. Many private houses are situated on large landscaped sites that look very effective. The Meadows development will be a big addition to the village but do make sure that acceptable landscaping plans are in hand for the finished development. The Pines is a nice open estate of bungalows many of which have been recently painted and the area looks really well. Some weed growth at kerbs was noted and a concrete wall needs to be repaired, plastered and painted.

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

The main approach roads were excellently presented, but the approach from Streedagh seems to have had little recent attention. This is a pity as it detracts from the overall presentation of the village. On the Bundoran approach road the fine stone wall on the left with the landscaping is a fine feature. Well done on all the good work that has been done to bring about the standard that you

have achieved to date under this marking category.

**General Impression:**

Your Committee has done excellent work. At your level of the competition detail becomes very important. The higher your marks get the harder it is to gain additional marks. The further development of the wildlife potential of the area is one task to consider for the future.

**Second Round Adjudication:**