

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drombane**

Ref: **131**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **195**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

Drombane Village Group are certainly a large one with twenty on the committee! Have you taken on board the suggestion of last year's adjudicator that you divide up your committee into a number of sub committees in order to concentrate on different areas of work? The adjudicator was disappointed that no map or work programme had been submitted, although obviously they had been for last year's competition. Do ensure that these are submitted each year. You seem to have a good level of practical assistance from the local community. Your plans, as outlined in your overall developmental approach submission, are indeed sensible and practical. Do put them into a three to five year plan format in the form of a work programme before next year's competition.

The Built Environment:

Ryan's Pub looked well but could replace its plastic signage with ones of a traditional timber variety. The building looked reasonably fresh on the day but will need painting up before next year's competition. The church was quite fresh but its boundary wall needed painting. The hall will also need painting before next year. John Dunne's shop was extremely fresh, and looked well.

Landscaping:

The landscaping was taking well at the church car park. That to the riverside was attractive,

although the concrete post and rail fence in this location had yet to be painted. Development of this area would be a marvellous asset to the village. You mention that structural work is needed and that you are consulting with the County Council in relation to this. If some sort of access to the riverside itself was possible this would be a marvellous asset to the village. The landscaping to the side and rear walls to the car park was taking well in its gravel beds.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of your application form blank. With the wealth of mature trees and the magnificent Aughboy riverside area, this aspect of the competition is ripe for development! Get the local schoolchildren involved. Perhaps you could have one committee member assigned to working with the local school teachers to formulate wildlife projects? These could take the form of such projects as studies of habitats in the locality, in designing wildlife information boards, local nature trails, wildflower gardens, the construction of bird tables, nesting boxes, bat boxes etc. There are so many things that could be done!

Litter Control:

On first impressions the village generally looked litter free. However, closer inspection revealed some problem areas such as on the approaches to the village from Ballycahill and Nenagh.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete - some was evident on the Ballycahill Road and the adjudicator presumed this was because a stone wall was about to be built here. Weed control was a problem to a low stone wall on this road and also to the kerbing in the car park area in the centre of the village. The derelict building in its prominent location beside Ryans looked most unfortunate. Would it be possible to approach the owner in order to get permission even to paint it up? The retention of the traditional phone box is indeed commendable but it will need to be restored to its former glory as, at the moment, it is in rather bad condition. The adjudicator was curious as to whether the timber fence on the Dundrum Road was damaged or if access is required here in which case a gate should be put in place. The recycling area was extremely neat with no evidence of dumping which was good - this is a problem in many villages and towns throughout the country.

Residential Areas:

There is a lot of new housing under construction along approach roads. Do ensure that these are in keeping with the character of the village. The brick single storey council houses should be landscaped to their forecourt area as, at the moment, their tarmacadam looks quite harsh in appearance. Houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally in reasonably good condition on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. On the Ballycahill / Thurles Road the appealing limestone village nameplate gives the visitor a great sense of arrival into the village. The grass verges in this location were well cut, with timber rail fences to front. The hedgerows, however, appeared a little overgrown. The Dundrum Road surface was in bad condition and overgrown. Orange cones were evident on the Nenagh Road - is construction work taking place or planned in this area? The hedgerows were quite overgrown but there was evidence of wild flowers such as roses and honeysuckle. The village nameplate was quite obscured by overgrowth on this road. In terms of signage directional signs in the village centre were in very bad condition - as they would seem to have been last year to judge from your report.

General Impression:

Drombane is a typical Irish village with its own distinct charm. It is essential at this stage of the competition that you formulate a work programme in order to plan out your future work in relation to the ongoing development of the village. It is a wonderfully peaceful location with its sounds of gently lapping water etc.