

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dromineer**

Ref: **637**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	204	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

The provision on your committee of nearly 50% children is a good one - you can never start the Tidy Towns ethos too early! You would appear to have a good level of help from local businesses, FAS and the County Council. Your Three to Five Year Plan made very interesting reading, but you had not recorded the expected completion dates for any of your projects apart from the Thatched Cottage. The idea of creating your own website is an excellent one, as are the seasonally themed fundraising events. Your work in relation to providing historical information boards is most praiseworthy as it gives visitors an idea of the rich heritage within the village. Your work in relation to encouraging the use of Irish in the names for new estates is quite laudable.

The Built Environment:

Work at Neddie's Cottage was finished with freshly whitewashed walls and its completed thatched roof. The shop looked well but perhaps some discreet timber signage could be considered in this location? The new dynamic Yacht Club looked well and had been completed since this adjudicator's last visit to the village. The Whiskey Stil and Hotel both looked very well as did the stone hostel, and the Crow's Nest in cream with red trims. The new facilities and amenity building had been completed and integrates well into the existing fabric of the village. The historical information boards were in place and most informative. The Canal Store building requires some attention to its timber work before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

The green spaces throughout the village were generally well maintained. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing the fruit of your work with the horticulturalist in terms of designing plans and layouts. The new playground in centre of the village was admired and was well used on the day. In relation to the tree planting, any of the existing car park areas would seem to be ideal locations and wouldn't appear to obstruct any views, as windows of houses don't appear to look directly out onto them, so maybe this could be looked at in more detail. Otherwise stone walling or planting would be ideal to take the bare look off these areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in relation to trying to ban powercraft from the lake in order to preserve existing wildlife is a good one and good luck with your negotiations in this regard. The removal of any plastic bags etc. from the waterside is also an excellent one, as is your participation in the Golden Mile Competition. Your wildlife boards were also noted and admired. The adjudicator would also like to wish you all the best in relation to your discussions with the County Council and Waterways Ireland about boat pumping - out facilities.

Litter Control:

Your work in this regard is commendable in that you ask the County Council to provide more bins during the busy season and to erect signage at the recycling facility. It is entirely commendable that you pick up litter when and where you see it! One or two of the litter bins did appear to have been revamped, although perhaps not all of them - one to the waterside car park appeared in need of attention on the day in terms of freshening up! Litter control was generally quite good on the day although some papers were evident in the vicinity of the phone box and along the roadside beyond the Whiskey Stil, and a light scattering was evident throughout.

Tidiness:

The adjudicator notes your problems in relation to a derelict site in the vicinity the Whiskey Stil and hopes that this will be resolved in the not too distant future. The barrier at the Boat Club should be repainted before next year's competition and weed control seemed to be a slight problem at the kerbing in front of the waterside at the car park in this location. The recycling area was neat, although its bins appeared to be a little stained with green algae on the day. Dead weeds were also apparent to the kerbing of the new houses adjacent to the Whiskey Stil.

Residential Areas:

The grassy verges to houses on the approach road to the village in front of the new houses were not being maintained and in stark contrast with the well maintained verges with the stone boats. B&B's and hotels contribute strongly to this category of the competition, such as the Dromineer Bay Hotel and the Attway Lodge - both of which looked very fresh. Some staining was evident to a house beyond the Whiskey Stil and the picket fencing to a house along the waterside edge should be repainted before next year's competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges on entering the village appeared quite mixed in terms of presentation, as recorded elsewhere in this report. In terms of street furniture benches, tables etc. were generally well maintained but the phone box appeared to be missing its door. Directional signs at the crossroads were in need of some attention.

General Impression:

Dromineer is always a pleasure to visit and this year was no exception. The village continues to be maintained to a high standard and the good work continues apace. Do ensure for next year's competition you amend your work programme in order to indicate intended completion dates for your projects.