

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Garrykennedy**

Ref: **119**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **257**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	35	36
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>255</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Garrykennedy Tidy Towns Committee, the adjudicator was surprised to see, had grown even further this year to a total of twenty committee members! It was encouraging to hear that you are recruiting members from the "seasonal community" in relation to the holiday home residents in the area. You certainly seem to have been busy with your work evenings, fund-raising events and participation in the An Taisce Spring Clean! Your work in relation to collaboration with Portroe Tidy Towns Committee, Garrykennedy Development, FAS and North Tipperary County Council are all considered to be very worthy. You mention that you will be drawing up a Three Year Plan - one was mentioned two years ago in your report - has this been completed? Hopefully you will have this document ready to include with next year's submission.

### The Built Environment:

The business premises of Ciss Ryans and Larkin's Thatched Pub were both well maintained - the latter with attractive window boxes and red painted window frames. The adjudicator was surprised to note that the whitewashed cottage opposite was up for sale! We look forward to seeing the completed Marina and, especially, any buildings associated with it. It was reassuring to hear that the Tidy Towns Committee are closely involved with monitoring this development to ensure that this is in - keeping with the character of the village.

## **Landscaping:**

It was very disappointing to note that the car park area opposite the pub still appeared to be as bare and stark in appearance as previously. It really is important at this stage that some tree planting or a low stone wall or some planting is placed this location in order to reinstate the lost street line. This is in a very dominant position in the centre of the village. Other green spaces were well maintained and the garden area of Packy's Cottage at the crossroads has developed since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting Garrykennedy. An attractive planted bed was noted adjacent to it. Your provision and plans to incorporate additional planting of trees and shrubs for year round effect is admirable.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The forest walk is a magnificent natural feature to have within the village. Your proposals in relation to upgrading timber finger post signs is laudable. The metal sign in this location in the vicinity of the recycling bins will need painting up before next year's competition. The handpainted wildlife sign at the waterside was greatly admired. Your plans for creating a wild flower meadow are looked forward to with eager anticipation.

## **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, especially in locations where one would normally expect there to be problems - such as at the car parking area on the seafront and by the recycling bins. However, one or two papers were evident on the approach road from Portroe and along the pleasant forest walk.

## **Tidiness:**

You mention in your application the problems that you have in relation to resolving the issue of the yellow and black barriers with the County Council - hopefully this will be solved in the not too distant future. The back of the safety ring container is quite visible from the road and appeared quite flaky. The recycling area was very neat and the bins were quite clean. However, building materials in the form of sand and gravel had been left beside this area. It is to be hoped that these will be removed once any construction work with which they are associated, is complete. A tin roof to a shed on this road should be repainted in its traditional green colour before next year's competition. Outbuildings and gates should not be neglected when considering overall presentation. Besides these minor problem areas the village looked extremely neat on the day.

## **Residential Areas:**

The standard in this category of the competition was good - of particular note being Carrigeen Cottage with its stone boundary wall, and an attractive garden to a house with a yellow boundary wall in the same vicinity. The magnificent houses on the road to the recycling facility and forest walk were greatly admired. Do ensure that boundary walls are considered when looking at overall presentation. The adjudicator hopes that the planning notice mentioned in last year's report to an attractive vernacular house, is not the one that has been demolished in the village. Since Irish villages have so few traditional houses left, those we have are all the more precious and their disappearance is to be greatly lamented! An attractive house with marvellous garden in this location was greatly admired.

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

The Portroe Road was well maintained and was proudly displaying its Bronze Medal sign for last year's competition. Stone walling and hedgerows give this approach a quite organic feeling. The stone nameplate was greatly admired. The road to the recycling facility and forest walk was well maintained, with magnificent montbretia to the roadsides, which must be quite spectacular when in full bloom. Fuchsia was also noted in this location. The adjudicator was sorry to hear about your

problems in relation to the ownership of the timber boardwalks. The obvious candidates would have been the County Council or Waterways Ireland as you suggest. Perhaps the Land Registry Office would have some information to offer in this regard? Hopefully it will be resolved in the not too distant future although visually, at least, in terms of this competition, they don't look too bad!

### **General Impression:**

The calm lakeside location of Garrykennedy is always a pleasure to visit and this year was no exception! It is reassuring to hear that the Tidy Towns Committee keep a sharp eye on potential development, in order to ensure its ongoing unique traditional appearance. Do bear in mind the comments made over the last number of years in relation to the car park area opposite the pub. A "greening" of this area would really make all the difference in the world!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was your 2nd round adjudicator's first visit to Garrykennedy and it is indeed a most attractive if very busy small village. The approach road into the main waterside car park was quite untidy with two piles of roads kerbing. Presumably works are planned here at some stage. One of the raised flower beds here on the left hand side beside the litter bin was effectively dead and needs to be replanted. The grass Areas at the waterside area looked a little 'tired' and more care with cutting is required – for example by the concrete supports of the seating areas. The new Marina development appears to be substantially completed and looks very well. Have you considered getting agreement on a co-coordinated colour scheme for field gates? On the Portroe approach the adjudicator was surprised to see that the bank / verge on the right opposite the Bronze Medal plaque had not been cut. The adjudicator noted that the old cottage is for sale. Do make sure in as far as you can that the new owners retain this very attractive property, and preserve any traditional features. A new building was under construction beside the house with the lovely arch window. Hopefully the new building design is sympathetic in design terms to the nearby properties and the village as a whole. The side gate to Larkins needs to be repainted. Two overflowing litter bins were noted at the water side car park.