

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg**

Ref: **254**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **222**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	222	217

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee's Three Year Action Plan is completed this year and therefore it is now important that you continue the good work and draw up a new one for next year's entry to the competition. You can use your existing Action Plan in combination with the comments contained in the last number of years Tidy Towns reports to form the basis of this document. You mention that the school is being relocated - presumably this is in the form of an extension or new school building as construction appeared to be taking place at this location on the day. Many thanks for all your supporting documentation, all of which were most useful to the adjudicator on the day.

The Built Environment:

The National School looked well on the day and appeared to be quite fresh. The new school, as mentioned previously, appeared to be under construction adjacent to it. The Ragg pub looked well - perhaps some tree - planting could be considered in this location in order to landscape the car park area somewhat. At the moment it looks quite bare. Similar treatment could be considered at Moloney's garage. The Church looked quite charming with good mature landscaping. The appealing limestone information plaques throughout the landscaped areas were admired. The Community Centre looked well, although its forecourt area appeared a somewhat weedy.

Landscaping:

The Old Inch graveyard on Inch Lane is quite captivating and was well maintained. The adjacent Millenium Grotto and freshly painted Crucifix looked well, with its limestone nameplate and freshly painted bench. The stone bed planting on well maintained grassy verges at roadsides looks well and is not too intrusive. It sports a good mix of planting, such as daisies to one, roses in the next, and permanent planting. It displays a good deal of variety and is not repetitious. The large expanses of grass verges are well maintained - do ensure the removal of cut grass, however, when grass cutting is complete. The verges had been well cut to the road edge and the grass had been left to grow longer behind this area, with hedgerows acting as a backdrop. This is an approach which works very successfully. St Michael's Cemetary was well maintained with a well maintained boundary wall and gates with bench situated outside. The entrance to the GAA well maintained, as was the entrance area to Inch House with its pots filled with petunias - even the empty gatelodge had placed window boxes in their windows.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No development has yet taken place at the Cromoge riverside area. This should be rolled forward into your new Plan or Work Programme. The Golden Mile walk that you have initiated is a magnificent natural asset to have in the confines of the village. It was suggested last year that you formulate a wildlife project with the local schoolchildren but this year's adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank, so presumably nothing further has happened in this regard. You should consider getting a committee member to liaise with the local teachers in order to formulate a variety of wildlife projects for the local schoolchildren. This could take the form of a number of varied projects such as the building of bird tables, nesting boxes or the planting of wildflower gardens. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas for promoting this aspect of the competition.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was reasonably good. One or two papers were noted along the roadsides, along the Pallas Hill Road and the Borrisoleigh road. Generally the standard was reasonably good.

Tidiness:

An untidy yard area behind pub should be screened from public view. Weed control was a problem at the Community Centre forecourt.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens throughout the village were generally quite well maintained. Some marvellous gardens were noted opposite the entrance to Inch Lane. An interesting house was admired directly onto roadside with attractive and unusual plasterwork. The house with its planted bed filled with marigolds in a gravel bed extending to the roadside was most attractive. A number of houses along the roadsides adjacent to the school was admired - these were well maintained. There is a good housing stock beyond the Church on the Pallas Hill road which contributes well to this category of the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Along the Templemore road, some boundaries were in the process of incorporating a stone facing. The Children Crossing signage on this road was quite grubby. Potholes were noted on the Pallas Hill road. On the Thurles road the odd bit of judicious planting was noted on the well maintained grass verges. Wild flowers including daisies were spotted in the hedgerows. The cheerful planting at the welcome sign was admired but the junction sign was quite grubby. The Children Crossing and junction signs further in were quite obscured by overgrowth. Along the Borrisoleigh road, the welcome sign with snapdragons was admired. Generally, street furniture well maintained throughout

the village.

General Impression:

Inch Bouladuff and Ragg continues to perform well in the competition. It was a pleasure to revisit after a number of years. Well done to all concerned in its presentation and continued high standard.