

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Littleton Village**

Ref: **485**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **209**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your submission, including map, which was most helpful on adjudication day. However, it is essential that at this stage in the competition that you formulate a work programme. This was mentioned in last year's report. This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village's future and setting a timeframe for achieving these. Littleton Tidy Towns Committee certainly seems to be a hard working one with its Work Nights, Church Gate Collection, Christmas Raffle and Table Quiz, especially given the fact that you have lost two committee members since last year! Littleton is in a very busy location on the main Dublin to Cork Road and hopefully will be by-passed in the not too distant future - and that this action will help you in your work.

The Built Environment:

In terms of public buildings, the village looked very well. Muintir na Tire was quite fresh as was the Garda Station, School and Catholic Church. Some landscaping should be considered at the Church car park in order to soften its somewhat harsh effects. Some tree planting - similar to that up the road from it - would be ideal. Although the National School was fresh, its boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition. The Church of Ireland looked extremely well. Commercial premises were well presented - for example, William Mahers, the Jockey Club, the supermarket, the butchers and the tool hire shop. Do try to discourage the use of plastic projecting beer signage and remove large obtrusive plastic signage. These should be replaced with ones of a more traditional

timber variety, which look far more appropriate. The fine hedge to the front of the GAA grounds was admired but the whitewashed wall behind was in bad condition, particularly at the entrance area.

Landscaping:

The grotto was extremely fresh and its balustrading also looked extremely well. Incidental planted beds at road junctions were admired, particularly that at the junction to the briquette factory. The large grass verge area with bog oak sculptures on the Dublin Road was appreciated. The rose beds in the church grounds were admired but, as previously mentioned, perhaps some landscaping could be considered in the car park area. A similar treatment would benefit the co-op forecourt area, as it is also somewhat bare and harsh in appearance. The grassy greens and planted bed in front of the Church of Ireland was greatly admired. There were some attractive hanging baskets such as those on the road to the briquette factory and on commercial premises such as the Turf Club.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was most disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank, as you have done for a number of years! It is essential at this stage in the competition that you tackle this area in order that you gain additional marks. You should contact the local school with the idea of involving the local school children in some projects of a wildlife nature. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas in regard to this. The children could conduct a project on the wildlife habitats in their area and combine this with a wildlife information board. Other possibilities would be introducing a wildflower garden at the school or building bird feeders - all of which have proved quite successful in other centres.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Even one or two papers are all the more evident in a village of Littleton's size. Quite a lot was evident in the vicinity of the school and the housing estates and the odd paper was evident on the main route through the village.

Tidiness:

The village had a quite neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day. However, there were one or two minor problem areas. Do discourage advertising hoardings as these can give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. Screen the farm machinery yard - even a low wall or hedging in indigenous beech or hawthorn would be beneficial in this location. An empty site on the main street beside the co-op looked unfortunate. Don't forget to consider outbuildings when looking at your overall presentation. The tin roofs to the fine stone outbuildings on road to the briquette factory should be painted in their traditional red colour.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent, as some housing estates were well presented while others were not maintained to the same high standard. In particular, the gables of houses as seen driving along were neglected in some incidences, as were boundary walls. A magnificently whitewashed wall to a farmyard on the Cork side of the village looked marvellous, although one on the Dublin side looked a little grubby in comparison. Both McDonagh Terrace and St Bridgets Terrace looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main Dublin to Cork Road looked well on both sides of the village - and trees on the Dublin Road were maturing well. The road to Coolmore and the briquette factory was well maintained,

although the road surface was not in good condition. On the Thurles Road the banks had been cut back but the dead grass had not yet been removed in some places. The retention of the square traditional sign in this location is highly praiseworthy but it should be painted up before next year's competition. The attractive limestone name plaques to streets and roads were greatly admired and, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, are of great benefit to those who are not as familiar with your village as you are yourselves!

General Impression:

Littleton is a village which strives hard to battle against its inherent problems due to being located on such a busy road. It continues to develop but it is essential at this stage in the competition that you formulate a work programme and tackle the issue of wildlife. Good luck with all your future work.