

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lorrha**

Ref: **65**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **212**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Lorrha Development Association certainly has a large committee given the size of the village. Have you considered dividing into sub committees which would be responsible for different tasks within your action plan? These sub committees could then report back to the main committee on a regular basis. You certainly seem to have some very interesting money raising schemes such as your sponsored walk, family fun day, calender, table quiz and clean up evenings. Lorrha has a wealth of fine architectural and historical heritage such as the Franciscan and Dominican abbeys, the Motte and Bailey, and the Early Christian well. Your action plan made very interesting reading but should be looked at in a little more detail in order to divide up the tasks into a chronological format in order to set dates for the achievement of these aims.

The Built Environment:

The standard of both commercial and public premises in the village was generally quite good on the day. The Garda Station was very fresh and the School looked well but perhaps some landscaping could be considered here in order to soften its currently quite bare and stark grounds. The safety barrier and gates outside were in need of a fresh coat of paint. Work was taking place on the day at the Old Schoolhouse. Of note was Collettes Unisex Hair Salon which looked very well in pink!

Landscaping:

Along the Birr Road, the well cut grass verges with bog oak sculptures in stone beds were admired. These sported a picnic table with a stone wall surround. Snapdragons and sweet williams made a colourful display and the new trees opposite were coming along well. An incidental bed of sweet williams was noted near the school - there are a number of these areas within the village which create a good impression - another was noted on the Portumna Road with snapdragons and cape daisies. The well area, unfortunately, appeared to be dry on the day and its gate was in need of a fresh coat of paint. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this location? Some attractive planting was noted on the Abbeyville Road although the willow tree appeared to need some attention in this location. The information board indicating areas of interest in the centre of the village was greatly admired as were the interesting Celtic designs on the benches around the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Hopefully you will have made progress in regard to this category of the competition by next year's entry. You recognize yourselves the need to concentrate more on this category and your plan to seek the help of a local wildlife enthusiast is a good starting point. Do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for further developing this aspect of the competition in terms of potential projects. You could also give one of the committee members the task of liaising with the local school teachers in order to perhaps implement some joint projects with the school.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good, although some litter was apparent on the Nenagh Road and also at the Hand Ball Alley. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this location, as at the moment it appears somewhat bare and stark.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. The recycling area was fine. However, there are a number of yard areas which should be screened from public view - a farmyard on the Portumna Road looked quite unfortunate with evidence of dereliction to its outbuildings, and its gate appeared to be damaged. There are distinct problems with dereliction which you yourselves recognize. In particular, at the crossroads near St. Ruadhans Abbey. An empty site contains an outbuilding with a curved roof - this should be painted up as it was in bad condition. Boarded up windows indicated that this building had been painted up in the past, with murals to its boarded up windows to give it a neater appearance. Perhaps this solution - provided you get permission from the owners - could be considered again?

Residential Areas:

The standard of this category in the competition was good. Parc na Cille looked well. Your work with the County Council in relation to the landscaping of the new estate is highly commendable, in that you are willing to plant your own trees if allowed. An attractive garden to a house opposite the school was greatly admired. Another attractive garden was noted with roses overhanging a wall on the Portumna Road. The adjudicator noted the imaginative use of an old stone mill wheel incorporated into the boundary wall of one garden. Another marvellous garden extended out to the roadside with attractive displays of montbretia was admired on the Abbeyville Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The marvellous ecclesiastical Gothic arch style timber welcome signs on approach roads were greatly admired. The Birr Road looked well with neatly cut grass verges and associated landscaping. The new trees opposite were coming along well and the attractive metal cross was admired. However, the village nameplate was a little grubby on this side of the village. This was a problem that was associated with the Portumna Road also although its verges were in good condition. The Abbeyville Road must be an attractive one on which to live. - it sports some attractive planted beds. However,

weed control was a problem to the bases of stone boundary walls and, in places, the edges of the grass verge had been sprayed but the dead grass had not been removed, which gave a rather messy appearance.

General Impression:

Lorrha is a most attractive village with much to offer the visitor. The local community have a strong awareness of their unique heritage and are striving consistently to present it to as high a standard as they can. The village has the potential to do well in the competition, provided that problem areas which are noted in this report can be dealt with.