

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughmore**

Ref: **474**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **189**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	189	189

Overall Developmental Approach:

You seem to have a large committee of twenty members for a village of Loughmore's size! Perhaps you could consider sub dividing into a number of sub committees which would concentrate on certain areas. These could then meet with each other on a regular basis, forming the overall committee, in order to report on progress made. The adjudicator was pleased to hear you had a high level of financial and practical support from the local community, as well as support from FAS in terms of maintenance. Your plans in relation to developing the Weir areas are indeed highly commendable. Last year your report mentioned a work programme but you didn't submit it with this year's entry. It is important that it is submitted with each year's application in order that the judges can see what progress you have made.

The Built Environment:

The modern church and grounds looked well, as did the national school opposite. The Loughmore Inn looked well but perhaps some landscaping could be considered to its car park area to the front, in order to maintain the street line and soften its somewhat harsh appearance. McGraths looked well but will need painting up before next year's competition. The Parish Centre looked extremely fresh.

Landscaping:

The pump in the village centre with its stone wall surround was admired - particularly the quirky faces within the stonework! Bench with tubs of hedging either side were noted along the main street and were simple and attractive in presentation. An incidental landscaped space with roses caught the eye. The attractive pincic area by the riverside and mill looked well, with its furniture in good condition, incorporating stone walling and new gates. The pump in this location had been freshly painted. Your plans in relation to landscaping at either side of the railway bridge is commendable and is looked forward to. Some attractive planting was noted at the bridge by the riverside, with its gravel beds. Incidental planted beds on the Thurles side of the village were admired. Some attractive stone beds had been prepared at the entrance off the main Roscrea / Thurles Road but had yet to be planted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You say that you want to develop a favourable environment for wildlife. Although this is commendable, more specifics are required. Your plans were mentioned in last year's report but you seem a little reticent as to what you have in mind this year? Do consider some wildlife projects involving the local school children. These could take the form of the building of bird and bat boxes, the construction of bird tables, conducting wildlife surveys or planting wild flower meadows. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas on developing this category of the competition.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good.

Tidiness:

The village generally looked quite tidy, although a derelict building that had been blocked up in the village centre created a bad impression and should be painted up, in order to improve its appearance somewhat in its prominent location. Weed control was a problem at the kerbs on the far side of the village, but generally was quite good throughout.

Residential Areas:

Houses along approach roads and in the village centre were generally well maintained. An attractive house with hanging baskets of inverted cones and colourful floral displays in the garden was admired on the approach from the main road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Thurles Road was well maintained. The far road beyond the village was quite overgrown and, although the retention of its square traditional sign was highly commendable, it was difficult to see it due to the overgrowth on this road. The dangerous bridge sign on this side was also quite obscured. Hedgerows further in were fine, but do consider bird nesting times when cutting these.

General Impression:

The peaceful village of Loughmore looked well on adjudication day and the evocative smell of turf smoke, as one passed along the village streets created a wonderful atmosphere. Well done on all the hard work achieved to date and good luck with your future plans.