

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Upperchurch**

Ref: **331**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **198**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	28	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>192</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your completed application form and submission which was most interesting. You would appear to have a large committee given the village's size. The adjudicator was pleased to hear that you have a high level of support from the local community and immense volunteer input. You also would appear to have a good working relationship with Tipperary North Riding County Council. Your lotto for raising additional funds is a good idea and seems to be helping you with your work. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator a map would have been useful on the day, as this adjudicator had not had the pleasure of visiting your village before and a map is always useful in order to establish how you see the village yourselves! Do formulate a Three to Five Year Work Programme outlining your plans and objectives for the village's future and setting a timeframe against their implementation. Both of these documents should be submitted with next year's application.

### The Built Environment:

O'Cuinneain's again looked well, although the remarks made by last year's adjudicator in relation to this building still apply. Murrays looked well, as did Oliver Ryan's which was very fresh. O'Dwyers Undertakers and Post Office with its marvellous display of hanging baskets and window boxes were both well presented. Do be careful in regard to the removal of render from traditional vernacular buildings. These were originally intended to be plastered when built and therefore its removal is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can lead to problems with water penetration. Therefore, it is always very important to do your research before starting work on such buildings to

ensure that this is not going to cause problems. The school looked well with its most interesting sculpture, "The Steps of Life". However, its gates were a little rusty and its boundary wall was somewhat grubby and should be painted before next year's competition. The Community Centre looked very fresh although the Tipperary Uplands sign outside should be repainted before next year's competition. The church appeared to be freshly painted and its timber troughs filled with flowers to its forecourt area were greatly admired.

### **Landscaping:**

The limestone information plaque at the junction of the main road at Pendye's Cross was admired, carved as it is out of a rough piece of limestone. The magnificent landscaped terraced raised stone bed beside the graveyard looked extremely well with its back wall forming the graveyard boundary front wall and stepped central wall. The gates to the rear of the graveyard will need repainting before next year's competition. The magnificent grotto was admired although its fountain was not working on the day (does it normally?) and its statues will need painting before next year's competition. There is some very attractive stone walling throughout the village. The magnificent raised green area leading into the village opposite the school was admired although the concrete post and rail fence here will need repainting, as others will in a number of other locations throughout the village. The trees in this area were coming along well.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was pleased to note your plans for the bog - is this the area by the main road? If so it was filled with bog irises on the day. There was much evidence of bird life in the village including chaffinches, which this adjudicator had not seen for quite some time! Ferns, wild daisies and other wild flowers filled the hedgerows. Perhaps the riverside area beside the graveyard could be cleared to a certain extent in order to gain access to it? Although bird tables were noted by the school, there is the incentive to involve the school children more directly in your activities, by proposing that they do a number of wildlife projects with you. These could vary from research to the construction of bird tables, nesting boxes, sowing of wildflower areas etc. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook in this regard in order to get some ideas!

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control was generally quite good. However, some was evident to the recycling facility, the odd paper was spotted in the landscaped bed in the graveyard and one or two papers and bottles along the main street. However, the standard was not too bad on the day.

### **Tidiness:**

Your recycling area appeared a little bit untidy and perhaps you could screen it in order to integrate it a little better with its environment - perhaps introduce one of your fine stone walls? Gates should always be considered when looking at overall presentation - those to the playing fields were quite rusty and those at the school, also. The wall opposite the graveyard is in need of attention, as it is in sharp contrast to that opposite. Painting was taking place to the wall opposite O'Dwyer's on the day. Weed control was a problem at the community centre and a rusty pole to a sign near the school looked unfortunate. Do discourage the practice of fly posting, as it can give a rather untidy appearance. Screen yard areas from public view as much as you can.

### **Residential Areas:**

An attractive house and garden leading up from Pendye's cross was admired and there was a marvellous scent of roses wafting over its boundary wall on the day! The brick single storey houses have been set back from the existing line of the road created by school and the houses either side. This should be reinstated with landscaping in the form of trees or planted bed, to the front of these.

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

Road surfaces were in bad condition. The approach from the main road gives a good sense of welcome to the visitor. The directional signs indicating areas of interest on the far side of the village are rather stained with green algae and should be washed down. The retention of the original phone box is highly commendable but, unfortunately, it is in bad condition. Do try to restore it rather than replace it with a modern one. New paving was noted in a number of places, as were the new street lamps.

### **General Impression:**

This adjudicator is in agreement with that of last year, in that the village has the potential to do extremely well in the competition, as it is a very charming one. Do initiate a Three to Five year Work Programme in order to clearly see where you should progress with your fine work.