

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boherlahan**

Ref: **320**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **223**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	218

Overall Developmental Approach:

Boherlahan Tidy Towns Association appears to be a hard working one, Your church gate collection in order to garner funds is a good initiative, as is that ongoing vigilance regarding litter. The fact that you consult directly with your FAS workers in order to include them in your decision making is to your credit and quite laudable. The adjudicator looks forward to your interpretive board which is planned to be located by the Coach House. It should certainly make for interesting reading and congratulations to the Boharlahan Dualla Historical Journal Committee for undertaking the task. You appear to have clear ideas to how you see the village developing in future years . Do keep a sharp eye on any residential development taking place to ensure that it fits in with the village's distinct character and appeal.

The Built Environment:

The Church and adjacent Bianconi Mortuary Chapel looked extremely well on the day - in particular the attractive mosaic to former was admired. The new railing between the church and the car park and new wall behind the statue to Our Lady were also admired. The Parish Hall will need painting before next year's competition, in particular its curved roof. The supermarket looked fine as did St. Isadore's National School and grounds. Red algae marred the gable and facades of the GAA building, although its entrance area was fine - perhaps some stonework could be considered to face the concrete block entrance wall. Do discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with more traditional timber signs. The adjudicator noted that the electrical goods premises is currently

for rent - its landscaped area looked well.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition that you obviously enjoy! The recessed planted beds in walls were admired, as were the tubs throughout the town. However, this adjudicator is in agreement with the comments made in last year's report regarding the benefits of permanent planting rather than tubs and planters. Although the church car park requires extra maintenance, there is no doubt that it improves this area immensely and is a good example to other towns and villages of what is achievable and how these areas can look in terms of a visual presentation. The well cut grass verges on the Cashel side of village were admired, as was the attractive planted bed at the crossroads. The good planting at the electrical goods sales and service building contributes well to this category of the competition. The new trees planted along roadsides were admired and village pumps were freshly painted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Wildlife area and pond planted with native tree was admired and the adjudicator looks forward to the bi-lingual signage proposed! Hopefully this will also be in the form of an information board to explain to the general public what can be seen in this location. Would it be possible to make it a little more accessible as at the moment it is just directly to the side of the road and the adjudicator wonders if its not just a little bit dangerous from the point of view of traffic? The bird table to the open space adjacent to the school was admired.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better, some papers were evident on the Holycross side of village and more on the Ardmayle side. A single paper on the Cashel Road made a bad impression and there was a light scattering along the main street of the village.

Tidiness:

Recycling bins, as you said yourselves, are a marvellous facility and make people aware of their environment but the dumping problem that you have noted in your submission was quite visible on the day and created a bad impression. Your work in regard to this is very impressive but perhaps you need to check it more frequently? This, of course, should not be up to you! If a more frequent collection isn't possible then hopefully your surveillance camera will deter offenders! A broken window was noted to one of the new houses on the main street - hopefully vandalism will not become a problem in the village.

Residential Areas:

The charming cottages on the Holycross Road were greatly admired, although one looked in contrast to the good visual presentation of the others. The charming and pretty houses on the Cashel side of the road were admired for their colourful nature. Your plans in relation to creating a garden competition are highly commendable. There seem to be a great number of houses under construction, so do ensure that these are of a suitable style to fit in with the village's unique charm. Good finishes in terms of material and landscaping are also essential.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

These areas were generally well maintained. On the Holycross Road, the verges were well cut back and colourful planting was noted at the nameplate. However, the hedgerows appeared a little bit overgrown. On the Cashel Road the well cut grass verges were admired with overhanging trees and well maintained hedgerows. On the Ardmayle Road, the narrow grass verge with stone walling behind was neatly cut although the hedgerow on the opposite side appeared a little wild and

overgrown. Do try to strike a balance between an over manicured appearance and a neglected one, in order to create a natural appearance to approach roads.

General Impression:

It was many years since the adjudicator had had the pleasure in visiting Boherlahan and was most pleased to see the distinct improvements that had been made in that time. Congratulations to all concerned and good luck with your future endeavours and work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Your 2nd round adjudicator was delighted to have the opportunity of visiting Boherlahan for the first time on a sunny August evening. The Cashel approach road was quite impressive though the grass at the verges was due for cutting. Likewise on the Holycross approach the grass verges were in need of cutting. On this approach to Boherlahan the small planted area at the village sign looked rather limp, and certainly in need of attention. The landscaping at the Church car park appears to be thriving and it certainly adds a lot of character to the car park area. Incidental weed growth was noted in several areas. If using weed killer for this problem do make sure that it is used with care and according to the manufacturers instructions, and that dead weeds are then removed. The Bring Centre was very poorly presented with bags of litter piled up. There was also some broken glass. Incidental litter was noted on the Cashel approach road and in the village.