

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emly**

Ref: **74**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **267**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	36	34
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	26
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>257</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was delighted to hear that in the "little town of Emly" everyone plays their part, from the school children up! This is very obvious to the visitor in terms of the overall presentation of the village. You have commenced a new Three Year Plan which seems quite sensible. Your work in relation to the promotion of the Irish language is to be commended. Your Memories Group for the older people of the village is a marvellous idea and good luck with same. Your plans in relation to a Sensory Garden in the wildlife area of the church grounds is highly commendable. The provision of an inter-town internal tidy towns competition is a marvellous one and obviously gives people great enthusiasm and encouragement.

### The Built Environment:

All of the commercial and public premises in the village were well presented on the day. The co-op building in stone on the Tipperary Road had painted red trims. The church and grounds looked magnificent - the building with its red painted down pipes and the grounds filled with flowers. The national school in stone with freshly painted safety barriers outside (as it opens directly onto the street) was very neatly presented. English's Butchers was extremely fresh as was the garage. However, the tin roof to the latter should be painted up in its traditional green colour. Hanley's also looked quite charming and Vivo's was very fresh. O'Connell's Alterer's shop had even painted up its tin roof and the window boxes filled with cheerful geraniums looked extremely well. The Post Office

was very fresh as was McGraths which sported some charming and colourful hanging baskets. The hand carved timber sign to the Credit Union was greatly admired and is most unusual. The Old Hall was freshly painted and even a green and purple outbuilding had been painted up. The Forge Bar also looked quite charming. All in all there were few problems in regard to this category of the competition.

### **Landscaping:**

Attractive landscaping at road junctions were admired, as was the magnificently maintained grotto with its fresh statuary. A stone wall with permanent planting on the Tipperary Road was admired as was an attractive open space opposite the garage. The incidental landscaped space at the bend of the road on Main Street with its freshly painted red railings was admired with its information boards regarding the history of the village. However, this historical triptych should be repainted before next year's competition as it appeared a little bit faded. The attractive picnic area on the Knocklong Road was admired. The magnificent granite monument to Emly's emigrant people is a fine piece of modern art as well as a poignant one! New planting was noted behind the back wall of the GAA pitch within the tennis grounds - this area was quite discreet and even storage was tucked into the wall and hidden away. The discreet granite seats set into the hedgerows along the main street looked quite charming. The Four Seasons Park is maturing extremely well. The graveyard looked well and its bench had been freshly painted up.

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

This is an area of the competition which you show an evident enthusiasm for. Perhaps the wildlife area with brightly painted timber fencing by the bridge could be made more of in some way as it is quite difficult to see the stream area itself? There were additional wildlife areas at Galtee View and in the church grounds. This large wildlife space is most attractive with its logs encouraging wildlife and there was much evidence of birdlife on the day. The information board is a little faded and should be painted up before next year's competition and perhaps the children's survey could also be updated? The hedging leading down to this area from the church will be magnificent when it matures. The provision of a recycling and composting area at the school and wild flowers in the wildlife area and nesting boxes at St Ailbe's Drive are all to be commended. The provision of a dedicated committee member working with the school teacher to develop projects for the children in relation to the wildlife and heritage is a marvellous idea and one which other towns could follow. Your hopes for establishing Green Flag status will without a doubt be realized in the not too distant future!

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. Although on first impressions the village seemed to be litter free, there were a couple of papers evident at Galtee View Estate and the odd paper on the main street but generally it was quite good.

### **Tidiness:**

Even yard areas to industries and farmyards had been freshly whitewashed! St Ailbe's Park GAA grounds entrance area was well maintained with good planting to the front. Even an abandoned cottage opposite Galtee View Estate had been freshly painted up and the adjudicator was surprised to find Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in residence! One minor point would be a single gateway on the roadway leading up to the church, which was in contrast to the overall fresh and neat presentation of such areas. The recycling area was extremely neat and is a marvellously discreet installation set, as it is, off the roadway, railed in with planting behind. Again this is an example that others could follow.

### **Residential Areas:**

The magnificent houses and gardens on the Tipperary Road were greatly admired. Street houses were generally bright and cheerful. St Ailbe's Drive was beautifully maintained with freshly painted houses and boundary walls and a magnificent open space with maturing trees to the front. Gardens were generally well maintained. The new housing development at Glen Court is coming along nicely and hopefully will be maintained to the same high standards as the other estates in the village. Galtee View Estate was also well maintained with freshly painted houses and freshly painted pump and litter bin in cheerful red! Your garden competition is obviously paying dividends.

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

Approach roads were immaculately maintained despite the fact that there were major roadworks going on in terms of Emly's water supply! One very minor point would be the removal of dead grass after cutting verges which only a very cold-hearted adjudicator could possibly take into account under the circumstances! Along the Tipperary Road the pump had been freshly painted and the charming ditch running up along the roadside looked well. On the Knockong Road the grassy banks had been cut back and the retention of the square traditional sign is highly commendable. The Bruff Road also looked well and the stone bed filled with daisies etc. on the Tipperary Road was greatly admired.

### **General Impression:**

This adjudicator was extremely impressed by a visit to Emly for the first time. All categories of the competition had been taken into consideration and marvellous efforts had been made in regard to each of them. The simplicity of presentation is what makes the village so totally unique. Congratulations to all concerned - the village looked extremely well on the day!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Your 2nd round adjudicator had not visited Emly before and what a surprise it was. This is a beautifully presented village where the Tidy Towns Committee and all those involved have taken a very impressive approach to the concept of environmental excellence and the Tidy Towns Competition. All categories of activity for which marks are awarded appear to have received equal attention and enthusiasm to do the best job possible. The many trees help to soften the built environment and help to bring the surrounding countryside into the village.

There is a good use of colour in the village and St. Albe's Drive especially caught the eye, as the use of the graduated colour scheme here is excellent. The fine green area in front and the mature trees completes the presentation in a very satisfactory way. The 2nd round adjudicator has nominated this area for the national Architecture Award and it will be considered among the other national nominations.

There are some excellent but very simple shop-fronts in Emly that are so effective. However there are a few that could be updated. Some fine stone buildings were admired including the Catholic Church, the small stone house beside the Church and the School.

A little litter was noted at the area in front of the GAA property. This was not serious in quantity but detracted a little from the overall impression of a beautiful village so well presented.