

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hollyford**

Ref: **46**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **199**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	199	196

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your very detailed submission. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you are putting together a community framework plan with Tipperary South-Riding County Council and wishes you all the best of luck with this. Your Three Year Rolling Plan is in its mid - stage and appears to be progressing well.

The Built Environment:

The church was fine, although perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this area in order to soften the somewhat harsh effect of the tarmac car park. Work to the boundary wall of the Celtic cross monuments opposite, was noted, but these had yet to be painted. The railings also appeared quite flaky and should be painted at the same time. Work also appeared to have been completed to the Parochial House boundary walls, which will also need painting. The stone bridge at the village centre is a most attractive feature and was admired. Buildings were generally very fresh, such as the Credit Union, Co-Op, O'Connell's Bar and Ryans Rue. The Post Office was also fine. Do be careful of storage of goods on footpaths in order to ensure that they do not impede people's passage as they walk along. Storage of goods in yard areas should also be screened from public view as much as possible.

Landscaping:

The magnificent grotto set into the rocksides on the Cappawhite Road, with displays of rhododendrons growing around it and freshly whitewashed boundary wall was admired, as was its limestone nameplate. The graveyard was quite neat and the stone beds filled with pansies, at the village nameplates on approach roads, were admired. The village pump on the Nenagh side of the village was simply presented, with a colourful display of pot plants either side. The Millennium Garden was beautifully maintained in its peaceful riverside setting. The charming Old Forge area is ripe for a landscaping project, as is the Hand Ball Alley area. Building materials, in the form of gravel have been dumped here. These should be removed once construction work is complete, as this practice can give a rather untidy impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Hollyford is indeed fortunate in its location, with the magnificent backdrop of the hills behind and the lovely Multeen River running alongside the road. The bird table and bath at Millennium Garden were noted and your work in relation to the upkeep of the riverside and cleaning of it, is laudable. Your work with Coillte, in relation to organizing a walk area in Coillte Woods, is to be highly commended, as is the provision of a wildlife sign in this location. Swifts nests were noted in the eaves of the gable wall of the Church on adjudication day!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was quite good, although a few papers were noted along the main road, along the Nenagh Road and also on the Foilmacduff Road, leading to the houses in this location.

Tidiness:

The yellow and black metal bridge leading to the Church was damaged in places and should be repaired. The Bring Centre on the Piper Hill Road was reasonably well maintained, although the units should be washed down, as they displayed a problem with green algae growth. The timber yard on the Nenagh side of the village is successfully screened to one side of the road with its attractive timber fencing but, unfortunately, is not so on the other, with a bare block wall acting as a retaining wall to a large sawdust pile! This looks unfortunate in its very prominent location - could this possibly be faced with stone or somehow improved upon? Weed control was a problem in the vicinity of the school between this building and the church and also leading from it to the bridge. Weeds appeared to have been sprayed but the dead weeds had not yet been removed. Yard areas have been mentioned previously - they give a rather untidy appearance unless screened as much as possible from public view.

Residential Areas:

These were somewhat inconsistent in appearance with some houses and gardens looking magnificently maintained and others looking a little neglected in comparison. The houses and gardens in the vicinity of the Church were well maintained - particularly a magnificent garden extending to the roadside on the road leading down from the Church to the village centre - its banks filled with permanent planting and flowers such as foxgloves and pinks! However, a grubby boundary to another house was in sharp contrast to this in terms of presentation. New houses were noted on the Foilmacduff Road and landscaping in this area had yet to be established.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage was a problem on the Cappawhite Road where the Children Crossing sign and junction signs were rather grubby. However the village nameplate and verges were quite neatly presented. The road leading up hill to the church was quite overgrown and in bad condition, but the new lamps and

footpath in this location were noted - these must be very beneficial, particularly in the wintertime! The Nenagh Road was quite overgrown. The hills rising up behind the village form a magnificent backdrop as one approaches from here. Verges and banks leading from the Cappawhite side towards the centre of the village appeared somewhat rough as did the Foilmacduff Road which was rather overgrown.

General Impression:

Hollyford is a busy and interesting village which has much to offer resident and visitor, alike. However, its appearance was a little inconsistent on adjudication day, with areas in the village centre being well presented, while those in peripheral areas appeared somewhat neglected in comparison. Good luck with all your future work.