

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockavilla**

Ref: **743**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **222**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	29
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>215</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your excellent submission. It contained a clearly laid out plan outlining your achievements to date and updating it to include any variations that may have occurred since. The adjudicator quite understands that a lot of work went into the marvellous landscaping in and around the Community Centre and Church. This looked quite marvellous on the day! The use of traditional and appropriate slates as a finishing material on the roof of the hall is highly commendable.

### The Built Environment:

The school and its well maintained grounds looked well. The Church and its associated Community Centre were both well presented. Although the former will need repainting before next year's competition and its railings appeared somewhat rusty, the latter was very fresh. The attractive grotto was admired. Browne's bar and grocery looked fine but will need to be repainted before next year's competition.

### Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition that you obviously enjoy. Some attractive planted beds were admired on the approach roads to Knockavilla. The marvellous planting at the cross roads was admired, as was that to the rear area of Community Centre with its garden area dedicated to Baby

Jesus and St Joseph. The seating area and ceremonial gateway looked well, as did its the raised stone bed of roses at side entrance. Cheerful pansies made a good impression at the old village pump. The planting to the front of the Church car park looked well with fragrant lavender. There was some attractive planting at road junctions. The retention of the old fashioned traditional arrow was commendable, but it should be cleared before next year's competition.

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

The adjudicator was disappointed that you made no mention of your plans in regard to this aspect of the competition. You should consult with local experts in relation to developing this aspect of the competition - involve local schoolchildren. They could perhaps work jointly on projects with you, such as conducting wildlife surveys, building bird tables, bat boxes or the sowing of wildflower gardens. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this category of the competition further.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control of the day was good, apart from a few papers by the Peter's Seat Monument opposite the old RIC Barracks.

### **Tidiness:**

The standard in this aspect of the competition was quite good. However, evidence of flyposting created a bad impression. Do ensure that building materials are removed once construction work is complete - a pile of stones was noted to the completed boundary wall of a house. A messy yard area on the Golden road should be screened from public view.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard in this category was quite good. An attractive garden on the Cashel road was admired but a grubby boundary wall on this road looked unfortunate. The new houses with stone boundary walls are well maintained and contribute well to this category of the competition. An attractive house beyond the village nameplate on the Dundrum road with a fabulous garden filled with numerous varieties of tall flowers looked well and a lovely garden diagonally opposite sported some dignified Easter lilies.

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

The standard of signage throughout was extremely bad - it was quite grubby, presumably due to the large volumes of traffic travelling from Cashel to Dundrum. On the Cashel road, the village nameplate was grubby, although it sported an attractive planted stone bed at its base. The grubby Children Crossing sign looked unfortunate as did the very dirty junction sign and directional signs in this location. There is quite a long length of roadway to maintain. Along the Dundrum road, the hedgerows looked quite wild and overgrown - try to strike a balance, in order to achieve a natural appearance to these. The relatively new ash trees were coming along well. The signage on the road by the Community Centre was virtually obscured by overgrowth!

### **General Impression:**

Knockavilla is an attractive and unique village which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit for the first time on adjudication day.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The presentation of approach roads was commented on by the 1st round adjudicator, and

unfortunately the standard had not improved at the time of 2nd round adjudication. Little recent work appeared to have been done on the public sections of banks and verges on any of the Approach Roads. Some good private presentation was noted, and the fine old ivy stone wall on the right on the Cashel approach is a fine feature. On this approach a pile of stones was noted on the left hand side of the road. As noted at the earlier adjudication many signs need to be washed.

It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- § Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- § Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- § Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- § Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

The planting at the Church was fresh and colourful but the rusty exterior staircase at the back of the Church needs to be painted urgently. A little litter was noted on the verge opposite the general area of the School. Some field gates need to be painted and perhaps you can organise a co-operative approach to this with the owners involved. Some concentration on approach roads in the year ahead should bring an increase in marks assuming that increased standards are achieved. Good luck with your valuable work.