

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athlone**

Ref: **299**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **212**

Category: **F**

Date: **09/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application form. Unfortunately sections B and C were incomplete on the application and despite a covering note to say they would be submitted at a later date, no additional information followed. This made adjudication somewhat more difficult. On a positive note it is good to see that the committee has grown to 9 but in a town this size it is imperative that you have wider support if you are to continue to make substantial progress.

The Built Environment:

The Civic Building is very impressive, however the paved area to the front is rapidly deteriorating and needs attention. The main street has improved and it is good to see more premises occupied in this general area. The Radisson Hotel has revitalised the Northgate Street area and the Prince of Wales Hotel is very impressive on the main street. There is a lot of construction around St Mary's Square which will no doubt improve this general area when completed. The old shopping centre looks vibrant and is clearly a hive of activity. There are some finely presented buildings on the Connaght side of the town and Garbz looked particularly well. There are some really attractive shop fronts in this general area - well done to all involved.

Landscaping:

The hanging baskets throughout the town are very effective. They are a beautiful mass of colour and look so healthy. The bridge is really enhanced by their addition. In general there is good verge and weed control throughout.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No details submitted. The children's play area at the back of Dunnes Stores continues to be well maintained.

Litter Control:

Litter Control seems to have improved throughout, the town certainly looked much cleaner overall. Keep up the good work.

Tidiness:

The town appeared to be much tidier overall despite a huge amount of construction/restoration. The Connaght Street area had improved substantially particularly towards the lower end of the street as had Church St. The Castle and St Peter's Square area are very well maintained.

Residential Areas:

As expected in a town of this size there was a mix of some finely presented residential areas and others that still have a way to go. Concentrate on involving residential committees in your endeavours and progress will be made.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Golden Island Shopping Centre has improved immensely. The Recycling area has been relocated, trolley bays cleaned up and in general an overall improved appearance. The Dublin approach road will no doubt improve as construction in this general area draws to a close. The area directly in front of the college is in need of some attention particularly the verges close to the small roundabout. The Ballinasloe approach road was well maintained and quite neat overall. The railway bridge over the Shannon, however, could really do with a lick of paint! Overall there was an improvement in this category. Well done!

General Impression:

It was a pity that no details had been submitted with the application form, in a town this size it is helpful for the committee to highlight current or new projects or even problem areas so that consideration might be given. Perhaps this was an oversight. Do try and grow your committee, you need all the help you can get in dealing with this size of town and nine seems insufficient in this regard. Overall however a general improvement was evident throughout the town. Well done and keep up the good work!