

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finea**

Ref: **522**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **220**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	220	217

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form and map. However, your submission should have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Built Environment:

Watty's Rock is a particularly attractive building and the buildings in general in the village are of good standard. It's good to note that the national school has been painted, although the church could do with similar attention. The post office is nicely maintained, as is the pub on the outskirts of the village.

Landscaping:

The pump and monument are a focal point of the village, however, both require a little attention. The floral arrangements at Watty's Rock and the B&B were particularly attractive. The riverside areas were attractive but a little untidy. The cordoned-off area at the entrance to Crumbs factory was particularly unsightly, and it is noted that while work was underway at the factory last year

boards were erected and painted creatively to screen it from public view. Could such measures be implemented again? Attractive flower beds and/or shrubbery could also be considered here. The new plantings and flower tubs have been positively noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside area is the obvious wildlife habitat in the community. The brightly painted bird house is most welcome. The presence of many anglers on the day of inspection must auger well for the commercial future of the village. Lough Sheelin is a valuable natural resource for the community, and with a little work by way of signage etc valuable points could be garnered here next year.

Litter Control:

The adjudicator was pleased to note the general good condition of the recycling facilities. The main street of the village was, by and large litter free. Bins were emptied and no dumping was evident at the riverside. Scatterings were, however, evident on some approach roads, and litter was evident at the picnic area.

Tidiness:

Weeds are evident at many spots in Finea. It is obvious that efforts are being made to take stock of this. If the adjudicator may advise you, it is always better to remove the dead weeds a few days after spraying, as if left there they can create some brown unsightliness. A little mowing, trimming and weeding is required at the riverbank, and the heap of soil/hardcore near the bird box is not pleasant. The petrol pumps beside the monument could be upgraded.

Residential Areas:

The profusion of colour created by the array of hanging baskets and window boxes throughout the residential areas was delightful. Finea housing scheme is extremely well maintained, with all common areas well-kept. The houses along the main street were tastefully decorated with flowers and looked very well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The practise of trimming verges and hedges needs to be examined more closely in Finea. This was particularly evident on approach roads, where in some cases signs were obscured. The road surface was generally good, and the footpaths and kerbing generally of high standard. The back street behind the pump and monument was rather unsightly, with a scraped car and the general impression of untidiness. Is this a private street or public road? If it is the former, perhaps gates or screening could camouflage the problem.

General Impression:

Following last year's report, Finea community seem to have taken control of it's problem with litter. For this, the committee and community are to be commended. Perhaps the introduction of a longer-term strategy could serve only to focus the minds of the community on improving their picturesque village.

Second Round Adjudication: