

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tyrrellspass**

Ref: **729**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>245</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for their application and supporting documentation which as always is helpful to the adjudicator. There is evidently a lot of cooperation with the various agencies, e.g. Local Authority, etc. It would be helpful if the committee could attach a matrix of the works completed each year. The time frame set out in the Village Enhancement Plan is challenging for the Committee.

### The Built Environment:

The Castle looked well on the day of inspection and there were a lot of visitors around. The grounds are neat and tidy. This is a very imposing building as you approach the village from Galway. Belvedere Orphanage is being sensitively restored. The Catholic Church is well maintained and on the day of inspection young people in their Tyrrellspass Tidy Town yellow jackets were working hard at the entrance. It is heartening for the adjudicator to see such young people taking an interest in their environs. Castle Estate could benefit from a fresh coat of paint, the colour scheme of these houses is not in keeping with the rest of the village and looks out of place. The cemetery is well maintained and the stone walls are a very attractive feature. Painting work was in progress at the Village Hotel and when completed will look very well. Shermont Court is a nicely maintained estate and work is ongoing here. New tree planting and shrubbery along the boundary walls are very attractive. St. Sinian's Church is well maintained with freshly painted gate, however the weeds growing on the top of the wall need to be removed. The Georgian houses look

well.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping is a credit to the community and feature colourful flower displays throughout the village. New planting was noted but care could be taken with some of the newly planted trees which are delicate. The adjudicator looks forward to an update on the pilot composting project. The village green which is extremely well manicured could benefit from redesign and we concur with the finding in the Tyrrellspass Village Enhancement Plan on this.

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

How novel for a village the size of Tyrrellspass to have a wildlife ranger and shows how committed you are. The development of interpretation panels is most welcome and we look forward to seeing them in place in 2006. The wildlife area adjacent to St. Patricks Hall could be enhanced further. The Committee should contact Enfo in this respect and refer to some of the publications they produce on wildlife conservation, Tel: 01/8883910.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is excellent in the village and on the day of inspection no litter was visible. The commitment of the committee, children and property owners in this initiative is commendable and is obviously paying dividends. Some of the litter bins need attention.

### **Tidiness:**

Tyrrellspass as always gives a neat and tidy appearance. Grass verges are neatly cut and well maintained. The sites at the entrance to Shermont Court will hopefully be tidied up as the development progresses. The shrubbery at Carroll Car Sales needs weeding. When the remainder of the wirescape is put underground it will enhance the village further.

### **Residential Areas:**

Shermont Court has to be highly commended, the plantings and shrubs look well. Residences on the main street are very well maintained with many displaying flower features. Riverdale also is very well maintained with attractive shrubbery. It is obvious that the residents of Tyrrellspass take pride in the presentation of their premises.

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

All approach roads were very well maintained. Grass verges neat and tidy. Maturing trees are a feature of the village as are stone walls. The stone blocks on the Dublin approach are an unusual feature although some weeds were evident here. The Cemetary approach is well maintained. The signs throughout the village were clean and this is a remarkable achievement considering the constant flow of traffic throughout the village. The small amenity area with the flowers on the Mullingar approach is a nice feature but more could be done to enhance this area. Weeds were evident and the pump house behind needs to be painted.

### **General Impression:**

Tyrrellspass has a pleasing visual impact with the village green and surrounding Georgian houses. However problems with the huge volumes of passing traffic, which is deafening, is appreciated and as is outlined in your report the bypassing of the village will enable the committee progress further and achieve valuable marks. The Committee works hard to maintain standards – well done.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Your consistency since before 1969 illustrates the great community commitment and staying power, and few centres can boast of such a record. The original lay out of the village is as relevant and as beneficial to day as it was originally, with a superb village green that is a show piece of distinction. You are coping well with the N6 through traffic, although tolerating might be more accurate. The approach roads here are very well presented. The castle complex is quite a landmark and an important tourism attraction. Your numerous submissions with the entry form are in a league of their own and show great forward thinking. A couple of small points: the sculpture of the three school children is very weather stained, you should consider cleaning it and raising it a little. The 1969 Bord Fáilte sign on the green has outlived its purpose and you should incorporate its significance in an other way. The period buildings on the green are superb. You have a few black spots: unoccupied house, poor boundary walls and a small amount of weed growth. The bollards at the school and along the busy street should be painted a strong colour. Once again a fine performance by Tyrrellspass.