

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange Con**

Ref: **559**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **217**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	27	25
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	217	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

The detailed map, photographs and plan gives a very good indication of the activities of the tidy towns committee in Grange Con over the past number of years and of the planning ahead. Grange Con is a beautiful village tucked away from busy roads and the village is a pleasure to visit. The plan is set out very well, noting all the items that have been completed to date and the list of planted trees and shrubs with dates is an excellent reference format for keeping track of developments. This also serves as a guide to the choice of plants for future plantings. The committee of 10 members is a strong number and with the aid of volunteers much is being achieved.

The Built Environment:

Great concentration has taken place on developing and enhancing the natural amenities and features of the area. The work revealing buildings stonewall is excellent. The stone around the village gives great character and makes an important impact in the village. The church is attractive although very different in style from the surrounding buildings. The adjoining buildings are well cared for and the bell and a smaller bell and clock all form features in the village. The well-painted houses above the church together with the creeper covered 3-storied building opposite looks very attractive. The two pubs are very well painted and appear attractive also. The post office and adjoining buildings are in good condition. The school looks well although the roadside wall could benefit from painting at this stage. The "For Sale" sign of 5.2 acres was noted in the village – could this be the beginning of new housing developments – if so a watchful eye should be kept on this or any planning applications to

ensure that they conform to the nature of the village.

Landscaping:

The village and surrounds landscaping is a special feature of this village. For a number of years now tree planting, shrub planting and attention to the hedgerows have been in place. This approach has served very well, now the many plantings are maturing and give a lovely effect on the approach roads and in the village. The shrub border at Mallens wood is very attractive. The border at the junction just above the railway bridge is a little weak and new planting would be helpful. The area at the church where the trees have been cut down offers interesting potential. The spring flowering bulb planting is indeed a good idea and this must have given a lovely show. The planting by the shrine in the village and the numerous well-planted colourful containers through the village give a great sparkle of summer colour to the village. The school garden is in need of some attention to grass care – or is this deliberate to see the range of wild flowers that emerge. Individual gardens contribute very well to the overall landscape of the village and their owners deserve great credit for this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hedgerows are very attractive and in their naturally kept state must attract a good range of birds and insects. The Goose island area is a good feature and the stonework by this is well assembled. The wire sculpture was admired. The old railway line offers great possibilities and hopefully this becomes a reality. A similar disused rail line in Clonmel has formed a very impressive wildlife walk.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control in the village. The roadsides are very clean and the village centre was also very clean except for a gate entrance near the shrine where much litter had accumulated. It is not clear where the litter is disposed of. The litterbins are adequate.

Tidiness:

The village is truly tidy and on entry to the village this tidiness is very evident. The broken roadsides at the kerbs are unwelcome. Where roadside walls are painted these need to be painted frequently due to the splash effects from passing cars.

Residential Areas:

The small number of residences are well tended and give a well cared for appearance. In the housing estate there is generally a good standard pertaining – each home can contribute well by their attention to their own house, garden and immediate outside surrounds.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are reasonably good for the size of the village. A number of broken surfaces were noted where the roadsides meet the edge. The carparking area outside the school is very rough. The new footpaths are helpful but the absence of a footpath around the bridge area is worrying as this is a narrow spot and children pass to and from the school at this point. The stone Welcome signs to the village are very attractive on the approach roads. Removal of overhead cables in the village would be a welcome move.

General Impression:

Grange Con is a beautiful village. The continued work is admirable and the concentration on tree planting is a great idea.

