

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tinahely**

Ref: **137**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **184**

Category: **B**

Date: **07/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	23	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	22	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	
General Impression	10	5	
TOTAL MARK	300	184	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tinehely is welcome to the competition- the towns last entered in 1999 and since then a number of changes have occurred in the town. New building developments appear to be the main change and these appear to be continuing at present. Work on the Courthouse and the Market house have been completed. The plan "Strategy for 2005" put forward by the committee is well focused and should result in considerable improvements over the coming years. Each year this can be assessed and modified as needed and should be attached to the entry each year. There is a considerable amount of work ahead. With such work completed, Tinehely has all the essential features of a very fine village and a good result will emerge.

The Built Environment:

The Courthouse and Market house buildings are very prominent in the village. The Market house building needs some attention to cleaning where staining of the walls has occurred especially the back. Parking permitted around the Market house building takes from the appearance of the building and attractive curved steps. This is clearly causing much traffic disruption. There are a number of well-painted street side premises in the square and on the Hackettstown road with very good paint and décor presentation. There is also a number requiring attention and these become more prominent as standards improve in the village. The work of the tidy towns committee in encouraging change in this regard is very useful. The derelict buildings are also causing a difficulty. The Riverside Business centre looks well and a new building in progress above this, opposite the

GAA grounds looks interesting. The Roadside walls of the GAA are well painted and give a very clean appearance. Stone is a good feature of the village and stonewalls, bridge and stone used in some building developments gives a fine impression.

Landscaping:

The efforts within the town using hanging baskets and containerised plantings give a great sparkle of summer colour to the village. These are particularly good on the Shillelagh Road. Great credit is due to those who put so much effort into planting and maintaining these. The shrub borders around the Market Square look well. Planting on the bend approaching from the Hackettstown side was noted – this will take a few years to mature. The Eucalyptus screen trees at Coogans work very well at the corner site. Some tree planting within the village would be very welcome – this would be made possible by curtailing the parking arrangements and providing a new design at the square. Individual gardens along the roadsides on the approach roads contribute very well to the overall landscape of the area and deserve praise for this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There appears to be ample opportunity to develop wild life observation and appreciation projects. The riverside is the obvious opportunity and it is good to see this as priority in the plan. The access to the river at the bridge seems very easy and some work to reveal paths and to develop facilities would be very welcome as this is so close to the village centre. Involvement with the school would be a very positive approach whereby appreciation of the natural environments could be fostered among young people.

Litter Control:

Litter control is presenting some difficulty in the village and surrounds at present. Hopefully with campaigns of awareness and organised litter collection methods an improvement will be made. The phrase in your plan “Actions speak louder than words” is an excellent motto – if every person looked after their own litter and the litter surrounding their home or business premises frequently a major change would be seen.

Tidiness:

The derelict premises and those needing attention cause levels of untidiness in the village. Buildings developments as they proceed are also troublesome – but these are temporary and will be resolved. The housing estate entrance by Roseville Guesthouse causes concern as the roadside corner is in poor condition. The views of back lanes from the main village areas offer potential for improvement also. Hopefully the overhead cables will be removed soon. Weeds along kerbs are causing problems under this heading too – at the Market Square and along the streets in places. There is a lovely cobble stone feature on the corner at the church, which is being lost due to weeds.

Residential Areas:

It is great to see so many residences right in the centre of the village on the street sides. This keeps great life in the village and forms good community spirit. Many of these are very well maintained with good standards of paint and general décor. There are also some in need of attention. In the housing estate on the Shillelagh road under construction a large green has already been seeded, hopefully tree planting will follow especially on the approach road. A housing estate by Roseville Guest house has been left in a deplorable state with waste spaces and road surfaces with manhole covers prominent. It is important to keep a watchful eye on developments to see that they are planned with adequate landscaping and that all works are carried out before the developers leave the site. Individual houses along the approach roads look well and people who look after their properties, garden and road frontage contribute very well to the overall appearance of a village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads have the advantage of the beautiful Wicklow countryside surrounds. Hedgerows and verges are tended well and a natural appearance forms an attractive approach. On entry from the Shillelagh side the unsightly shed at the back of some houses appears. The village streets have very patchy surfaces and need a complete resurfacing. Footpaths are damaged in areas too and repairs are needed. It is good that the approach roads are particularly mentioned as priority in the plan.

General Impression:

Tinehely has great potential to become a most attractive village. The plan proposed will bring Tinehely a long way. Lobbying public authorities to have works undertaken will also be needed as many of the improvements can only be done with their input