

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney**

Ref: **247**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **236**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	38
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tuamgraney Development Association is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thanks to your committee of seventeen for your tidily completed entry form; detailed submission, including your Review 1996-2001 and Strategy 2005-2005, and map, all of which was most useful to the adjudicator. And well done on managing to raise €35,000 locally in sponsorship. It is also noted that you work closely with the Environment Section of Clare County Council and Waterways Ireland.

The Built Environment:

The village has some very handsome old buildings and St Joseph's Church and the Heritage Centre/St Cronan's, and surrounding graveyard was admired. The National School with its wall sculpture was well presented. Some business premises - McKernan's Handweavers; Teach Uí Bhriain, and Charleville House B&B were all admired, as was the Business Park. The East Clare Adult Education Centre and Scoil Phobal buildings and grounds looked well, but the outside walls of both properties need painting. This also applies to the Coillte premises, and the roofs on both the Garda Station and Handball Court need attention. And the two buildings beside Kerry Business Farm Store need an overhaul. While work is still ongoing, the Scariff Harbour project, with its fine paving, seats, trees, was looking well.

Landscaping:

The village presented very well in this category and the floral displays in their attractive planters looked very well. The landscaping on the approach road from Killaloe is particularly attractive, with the green area nicely trimmed, broad leaf tree planting, and hanging baskets in full bloom. The green area, trees and fencing on the approach from Bodyke was also admired, as was the wonderful floral display at "Glenwood" and the flowering shrubs on display at Hasset's Bar. The new flower beds en route to Reddan's Quay were well planted, but green areas surrounding them need attention. Workers were noted repairing the dry stone wall on the road down to the Quay. The Quay and surrounding area was well maintained. The dead tree on the kerb opposite the Memorial Park should be removed/replaced, and the grass needs to be removed from the rose bed at the back of the Shrine - a good mulch might help alleviate the weed problem.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Raheen Oakwood, with its ancient oaks, is a wonderful natural habitat for wildlife. And we note from your entry that you are working on a wildlife programme - the planing of specific trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife.

Litter Control:

Your daily litter checks are obviously working and you are commended on this. Would suggest that the rusting barrels at Reddan's Quay be replaced with proper litter bins, and the barrels at Scariff Harbour should also be replaced, and a designated area bring bank put in place for boat users.

Tidiness:

There are a few areas that need attention and these include the tidying of the entrances to the Kerry Business Farm Store; Tuamgraney Engineering; the Electrical Repair Centre yard was very untidy; the side entrance to the apricot colour house in the square needs clearing, and the Clay People Pottery building and garden is very unkempt. At the entrance to the Equestrian Centre/Car Boot Sale area the wire fencing needs screening/replacing; the heap of tables for the sale are very untidy, and the green area and yard need weeding.

Residential Areas:

Tuamgraney has many very well presented private dwellings, some of which were already mentioned, But there are also a number of private properties in and around the village which are in need of fresh paint, and the gables and outside walls of others also need refurbishment. The condition of the dwellings Housing Estate on the way to the Harbour varies considerably.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The FAILTE TUAMGRANEY stone signs were much admired, and the Lough Derg signage was also good. Road surfaces, particularly on the hard shoulder area, need repair and the road markings in some areas were barely visible. The new one-way system will help the flow of traffic and safety of pedestrians and motorists alike.

General Impression:

The village has a wonderful history going back to the Druids, Vikings and Brian Boru. And it is a attractive village with Reddan's Quay and Scariff Harbour attracting many overseas visitors. Please continue with your good work and we wish you well.

Second Round Adjudication:

Landscaping is clearly your strong point. The approach to the village from Killaloe was quite spectacular. Now that the traffic has been re-routed one can still appreciate the Memorial Park. The landscaping at the quay was quite delightfully simple in contrast to other areas. The first adjudicator mentioned that the rose bed at the Calvary was neglected in July, and this was still the case in mid-August. Please do take account of the comments of the first adjudicator on certain other details which require attention and which have prevented an even higher marking – these are noted mainly under 'Buildings' and under 'Tidiness'. As well as some of the minor adverse points noted above, it was felt that the corrugated iron roof at the ball alley could do with repainting; some untidy buildings, including dereliction, on the Scariff road certainly contributed to lower marking under this heading. The surface of the Scariff road was poor, as was the surface at the village end of the quay road. The car-park outside the village at the GAA was weedy at the time of adjudication. The use of stone in old and new houses was much appreciated, giving a real sense of character. It is worth remembering that excellence in small details will add up to an excellent total, which, it is felt, you could achieve without considerable difficulty. Congratulations on your substantial increase in marking this year, and we will hope to see more of the same in 2006.