

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Puckane**

Ref: **221**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

Puckane Tidy Towns Committee would seem quite large with a membership of eighteen. Perhaps you could consider dividing up into a number of sub-committees to concentrate on different aspects of the competition and the presentation of the village? These sub-committees could then meet up on a regular basis in order to discuss the progress they have made in relation to their areas. You would appear to have a strong working relationship with the County Council, FAS, Shannon Development, the local school, businesses and residents. Many thanks for your Four Year Plan which seems to be quite achievable in its aspirations. Many thanks for your map which proved very useful to the adjudicator on the day.

The Built Environment:

The new boundary wall at the school was admired and had been freshly painted. The school itself was in extremely good condition, as was the church. Both of the pubs - Kennedy's and McGrath's, in pink and yellow respectively, looked extremely well. A stone wall was under construction on the day near the centre of the village. The grotto looked very neat and well presented. The car showrooms looked well - there is the potential to develop this area in terms of landscaping in order to somewhat soften its forecourt area. Do be careful when removing render from traditional vernacular buildings. The Heritage Service is most concerned about this practice, as many vernacular Irish buildings were intended to be plastered and their removal to reveal stonework underneath can cause some problems in terms of water penetration. It is also incorrect from a conservation point of view, as this

stonework was never meant to be exposed to the elements. Most buildings of the village were generally well presented to the highest standards.

Landscaping:

The new green area on the Dromineer approach was admired, as was the shrubbery area front of the Cuan Derg estate. There were many colourful hanging baskets and window boxes displayed at the stone cottages and at Kennedy's Pub. The entrance to the GAA pitch was well maintained with both the creeper growing up the boundary wall and the hedging to the front of the fence coming along extremely well. The attractive landscaped area on the Ballinderry Road with its well maintained grass verges and stone planted beds was greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to develop a wildlife walk from the Ballinderry Road are indeed commendable. This is an aspect of the competition which you could develop still further by involving local experts and school children. Do consider the possibility of working in conjunction with the children on a number of potential projects. These could range from the building of bird tables, bird boxes and bat boxes to the sowing of wild flower gardens. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas in this regard.

Litter Control:

Your aspirations in this regard were noted in terms of the provision of more bins. A new one was spotted by the freshly painted village pump. The village was maintained to a high standard in relation to litter control on the day.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem at the kerbs Cuan Derg housing estate entrance area and also at kerbsides on the Dromineer Road. Your plans to locate the recycling bins behind Kennedys seems like a sensible one - perhaps they could be screened in some way? Consult with the recycling company to see how this can be done - perhaps they could be screened from the side and the front and the top be left free in order to ensure ease of collection. The surrounding wall to the phone box should be painted up before next year's competition as it was looking a little neglected.

Residential Areas:

An attractive house with stone boundary wall and charming garden was noted on the Nenagh Road. The houses in Cuan Derg Estate beside the school were in a good state of repair - freshly painted with attractive gardens. More brightly painted houses were evident along the Dromineer Road. The Rent an Irish Cottage complex was well maintained, although weeds were noted to an entrance area of a house near by.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The directional signs at the crossroads appeared quite grubby and these should be washed down on a regular basis. The Nenagh Road was in good condition. The Ballinderry Road was well maintained with its attractive overhanging trees. The Dromineer Road had well cut verges, although its planted area appeared somewhat bare and had yet to really come into its own. The nameplate in this location appeared a little damaged and battered. The pump had been freshly painted in black with red stripes. Its simple stone wall surround was admired, although the coping was damaged in places and should be repaired.

General Impression:

The adjudicator always finds it a pleasure to visit a village or town which takes on board the comments contained in previous reports and acts upon them. This is the case in relation to Puckane. Well done to all concerned for the evident pride you show in your local environment.