

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nurney** Ref: **43**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

Nurney enjoys a wonderful aspect on an elevated site on the side of the hill overlooking beautiful countryside which affords scenic panoramic views of the surrounding country; how lovely it must be to go about one's business in Nurney each day with all of this to enjoy. Thank you for your submission this year which included your 3 year work program and which had a special area for wildlife; it made interesting reading and the report itself was beautifully illustrated, well done on a fine achievement. Thank you also for your submission, welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Town Competition.

The Built Environment:

The school is a wonderful old building located favourably within the village and is presented to a high standard, however its boundary wall could be cleaned or painted to freshen its appearance. The four buildings which form the village square would also benefit from cleaning or painting to freshen; all the more so as some of these are period buildings and have fine traditional features. If painting, heritage colour scheme should be considered. Congratulations on the refurbishment on the church spire it is a landmark feature on approaching the village from surrounding country side and the fact that it is flood lit at night adds an extra dimension to the built environment of Nurney.

Landscaping:

Well done on achieving an excellent balance of a wide variety of plants ranging from bedding plants in containers to more permanent planting such as shrubs and trees; young trees are establishing themselves well and stands of mature trees were admired also. Neatly maintained hedgerow will provide excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife. The beach hedgerow at the picnic site will do a great job as it matures over the years.

Planting 40 trees is a fine achievement for such a small community and it is good to know that many are native species.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note that you are undertaking a bird survey to identify species and featuring these on a wildlife panel, this is a worthwhile project; the community and of course the travelling public will be the richer for it. Congratulations on your placement of bird boxes and bat boxes; your wildlife plan makes excellent reading and we wish you well in its implementation.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your litter free status on the day of adjudication; we note that you involved pupils from the local school in litter picking, do send in more details of your activities under this heading as they can work both to gain additional marks for you and of course we can pass around effective strategies to other communities.

Waste Minimisation:

Reference has already been made to your recycling point with its information board and you are to be commended for this. To perform well under this heading it will be necessary to engage in waste minimisation activities: you may for example try to get local businesses, farmers, and residents thinking about ways to minimise waste as opposed to simply recycling. Congratulations on your leaflet drop to residents regarding recycling and we wish your school well in its work for to achieve the Green Flag award.

Tidiness:

Nurney has the appearance of a well cared for village; the village itself was particularly neat and we note from your submission that you participate in An Taisce's National Spring Clean Week. Your recycling point was neat and no litter or dumping of any sort was noted here.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties are nicely presented and indeed well painted however a few on-street dwellings could be improved to their roadside facade by cleaning or painting, one or two need attention paid to their rear facade as they can be seen on entering the village from the approach road. There are some handsome period buildings in the town many of which still retain their traditional features. Well done to the Hillview Estate residential group especially regarding developing rotas for grass cutting etc. Hopefully new residents to the village will have as deep a commitment and involvement in the life of the community in general, and in Tidy Towns in particular as the existing community has.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your name stones are beautiful and the script is elegant; it was good to note that they were bi-lingual, well done. Some nameplates were partially hidden by excess vegetation, which is dangerous. Well done on the completion of the new footpath to the school it looks well, do try to keep it from weed growth for the future. Road signs and other street furniture looked well. We note your intention to refurbish the old bridge walls.

General Impression:

Your initiative regarding the completion of historical data for a history board and historic trail is excellent we look forward to the fruits of your work over the next few years.