

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan** Ref: **86**
County: **Clare** Mark: **225**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for you completed application form but unfortunately there was no update of the 5-year plan and no map included which made the adjudicator's task a little more difficult.

Good to note that the Committee of 5 has a very good relationship with the County Council, other agencies and your wider community.

This has been beneficial as the Village looked very well on the day.

Ruan is a very pleasant village very accessible and has the advantage of being part of the Mid Clare Way and as well as having Dromore Wood in the vicinity.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category is a little mixed, some excellent premises and homesteads to be seen, but unfortunately there were some obvious derelict premises that need to be tackled as they spoil the overall attractiveness of Ruan.

I appreciate that is a delicate matter in a small rural village but may be the Committee could broach the owners of one in particular.

The Dalcassian Bar, Service Area and Shop were in the process of being refurbished and it is hoped that the owner dispenses with all the gaudy signs. This building has a presence in the core of the village and when it has its make over it be very attractive premises.

The new school was admired for its design and its ideal setting adjacent to the very well kept rural GAA grounds, a throw back to an era when as rural kids we were able to jump the school wall into the "hurling/football field" and play till dusk.

Purcell's Bar looked well but it was noticed that it is to be remodelled and additional residential units planned. Murty Kelly's is nice premises in a pleasant location maybe the sign could be done up.

The Church and Grounds were very tidy with nice planting arrangements and the graveyard was very neatly mowed.

Landscaping:

It was noticeable as one enters the village from all sides that a lot of thought and effort has been put into the planting of appropriate trees. These are complemented by the nicely designed planting arrangements that are dotted at appropriate locations in the village and on the outskirts.

The shrub bed that is adjacent to the recycling facility is nice and simple although it might have been populated with a little more colour bearing shrubs.

The area at the cross roads on Dromore Wood entrance was also very attractive.

There seems to be work ongoing at the area that houses the donkey sanctuary, these donkeys are obviously very used to visitors.

There were a number of very nice private gardens, most notably the cottage garden of lupins, lilies and poppies at Cilcasheen Cottage

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee is to be commended for constructing the nature observation shelter at the Raisc Pond and it is hoped that the school children might be encouraged to devise a wildlife project at that area.

The children have had an introduction to the whole wildlife ethos by observing various birds at the bird boxes in the school.

Ruan is so fortunate to have access to a number of natural wildlife amenities such as Dromore Wood and to exploit them to best advantage is the key.

Litter Control:

The litter situation was well under control with bins located at appropriate spots in the village and outskirts.

Some plastic bottles were noticed on the Church Road out of the village, it is important that small things such as this not be allowed to become a problem and undo your good work.

Waste Minimisation:

As this is a new category some committees may be unsure of what initiatives can be undertaken. Do consult the RAW publication as supplied with the original application form.

It was noted that two of your members are on the school committee.

They should be able to impress the need for better waste management children with simple examples of day to activities.

Tidiness:

The standard was good with room for improvement.

There is ongoing building work on new private residences on the Church Road and the sites tend to be somewhat messy. Also it is important that the portion of the footpath that is incomplete be made good in due course.

One house on the Dromore Road out of the village has very overgrown area in front. Can this be cut and tidied up.

Residential Areas:

For such a small rural village there has been a relatively high level of residential properties being built and it was observed that there are more planning applications filed.

This of course has its advantages as it adds to the Community, everybody benefits, schools, organisations such as tidy Towns and sports clubs in particular.

It is also important that any new developments are in keeping with the Village infrastructure and no doubt the planning authorities are well aware of this.

The Rural Houses were very well maintained and indeed some were being improved upon at time of adjudication. The established and the newly extended local authority housing development inclusive of green areas were tidy and clean and credit to the residents for their efforts.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances to the Village were in the main above average.

The Dromore Wood entrance from the three cross road section was well presented with verges and hedgerows tidy without interfering with the nesting season.

The other entrances, especially from Ennis, were all very well presented with special features such as impressive dry stonewalls and nice planting arrangements to give an inviting feeling

General Impression:

It is nice to visit Ruan at any time of year and it was all the more pleasant on a balmy summers evening.

The Village continues to do well in the Competition but the Committee realises that there is always more to be done.

Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.