

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scarriff** Ref: **87**
County: **Clare** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2006 and thank you for the completed application form and sketch map.

It would have been beneficial if the adjudicator had an update of work plan submitted last year to measure progress but there was sufficient information in the application form.

Good to note that you have good involvement from the Community as a whole and that you are interacting with Local Authority and other relevant agencies.

Scarriff has made good positive progress in the last few years.

The Built Environment:

As stated in the previous section the Town has progressed over the last few years and this was the first occasion in nearly 10 years since this adjudicator had time to traverse the town and its environs.

Much infrastructural improvement, the majority in keeping with the original streetscape, has taken place in the last 3 years and this has had a positive effect as the town has taken on a new look and was very busy on the day visited. Isn't good to see locals coming back to local shops.

There are a number of derelict properties in the core area and also on the outskirts, but constant encouragement to change may have its effect eventually.

The following premises were singled out solely because they took the eye of this adjudicator:

Kevin Bane Craft Shop, The Medical Centre on Church Street, Derg Credit Union and Rodgers fine new Centra Store. J Moloney's on Bridge Street is a good example restored shop frontage

The Public buildings RC Church, both Schools and indeed the new Fire Station and Ambulance Service Centre. Credit to all responsible for the upkeep of these premises.

Landscaping:

The Market Square was pleasant with recently planted window boxes and containers. It was noticeable that there were no hanging containers on the bridge which is one of the key attractions of the town – maybe they were in the process of being potted and will be in full bloom later in the summer. The Riverside Park, with its trees and myriad of shrubs and plants, is an ideal place to relax and take stock and the view, excepting the manufacturing plant, was excellent. It is noted that work will be ongoing to bring the Park to an even higher standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Riverside Park and the continuation of Knockroe Walk is major contributor to promotion and conservation of wildlife. There is also another area on the River Scariff banks at the bridge that could be planted with wildflowers and exploited better as it is very attractive location for viewing purposes.

Litter Control:

Given that the adjudication took place on a Monday the Town and its environs was well nigh litter free. The interaction that Committee has fostered with both schools and the local authority has paid dividends. Credit must go to all residents and indeed the school children of varying age groups that have embraced the need for good Litter Management Control. The Waste Transfer Station is a major contributor to the Race Against Waste initiative in East Clare.

Waste Minimisation:

The Town has the advantage of having the Waste Transfer Station for East Clare in place but it is also good to note that the Committee is creating an awareness campaign of that fact. It was noticeable on adjudication day that a number of local people were transferring waste to centre by various means. I would also urge the Committee to liaise with schools and indeed the Environmental Officer of Clare Council to consider putting in place a school based initiative under this heading. Do also consult the Race Against Waste publication for additional ideas.

Tidiness:

Good to note that you have spread the message about the need to reduce and delete all forms of graffiti and indeed all forms of fly posting which is a very unsightly practice. This seems to be paying off as most commercial premises were free of fly posting. In general the overall standard was acceptable in this category but there was too much active weed growth at kerbsides in the outskirts of the town. There were also a few unsightly back areas to be seen, all a voluntary body can do is to encourage people to make a better effort to keep their properties tidier.

Residential Areas:

The formation of a new residents association for Hillview and Fossabeg Areas will pay dividends in the future. Both areas were acceptable when visited, naturally there are those who may never conform, but overall residents deserve credit for making a good effort. There were a number of common areas that were a little unkempt, it is hoped that these will be cleaned up and made tidy at least asap.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall condition of approach roads could be approved upon. The road surfaces were poor and need to be re-surfaced – a matter for Clare County Council. The Feakle Entrance was a little too overgrown, even allowing for the fact that provision for wildlife conservation has to be taken into account. Ennis/Tuamgraney entrance was acceptable as was the Mountshannon entrance except for some excessive weed growth at part of the kerbside. There were a number of messy back areas visible particularly on the Mountshannon entrance. The situation regarding delay in improving road surfaces will have to be resolved with Clare County Council as they are deteriorating each year.

General Impression:

Your efforts to address and resolve ongoing problems is noted and it is hoped that there will be some good news on a couple of fronts between here and next year.

Scariff has made great strides in the last few years and hopefully that trend will continue in the years ahead. Keep up the excellent work and continued good fortune in the Competition in the years ahead.