

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney** Ref: **90**
County: **Clare** Mark: **248**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, very comprehensive development plan for 2006 –09, excellent map of village and surrounds and supplementary material to support your application.

It is good to note that you have fostered links with statutory bodies, other relevant agencies such as Waterways of Ireland and most importantly the Community as a whole.

The fact that the Tidy Towns is within the Development Association umbrella gives it a little bit more power to get things done.

Your excellent fund raising activities have been noted as per your Strategic Plan and long may this type of voluntarism continue.

Indeed the achievement gaining a 37-point mark increase in 10 years is quite remarkable and hopefully the Village will have further success in future years.

The Built Environment:

The one way system has improved matters immeasurably re traffic management, and the near completion of the new Scariff Harbour has given the village a new dimension and as well as an economic benefit.

Your Strategic Plan has identified areas that have been earmarked for immediate attention.

When the under grounding of cables and the Memorial Park to the men and women of the East Clare Brigade of the Old IRA is completed it will give the village a strong centre.

The following commercial businesses were admired for the very tidy and practical manner of presentation; Charleville House, the lady of the house was tending her flowers on the day, Teach Uí Briain which has a nice traditional front, Scoil Pobhal and the East Clare Education Centre.

There is huge improvement in the standard of presentation in the East Clare Business centre since some years back, well done to the business owners and landlords Shannon Development.

There are a few black spots that need attention one main premises off the core towards Scariff which looks as

if it has been sold- hopefully new owners will improve the outside. Also the area mentioned in last years report beside the Kerry Business Farm Store.

Landscaping:

Much work has been undertaken in this category over a period of time, which has made the village and the entrances very appealing.

It takes meticulously planning to put sustainable landscaping in place and that is what has been achieved in Tuamgraney.

Your success in the Clare in Bloom competition is well deserved.

As well as the excellent arrangements that are in place at the entrances to the village, the following appealed to this adjudicator: Raheen Wood with a mix of lavender spirea and potentilla, the saplings planted at the wall leading down to Reddan's Quay are well preserved and in a very healthy state these are complemented by the stone beds on the opposite side.

Many very colourful hanging baskets, planters and tubs at individual properties and particularly in front of the business centre were observed during the adjudication period.

The Memorial Park landscaping is something to look forward to when completed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note that you have commenced work on your wild life plan as the village has many natural habits that accommodate wild life preservation.

The proposed plan to create a linear walk to link the two existing harbours, while a fairly major undertaking for a small community, will be a big bonus for locals and visitor alike.

The other areas that were noted as natural havens were Raheen Wood and the Croaghrum River Bridge.

The Committee should involve both primary and post primary pupils in some capacity.

Litter Control:

The Litter situation was good except for a few wrappers and plastic bottles at the end of village near Gala in to Scariff Town.

Keep promoting the message of good litter control to all sections of the Community

Waste Minimisation:

This new category affords communities the opportunity to get involved in the concept of better waste management.

It is important to refer to the RAW publication included with the original application form.

Here one will get ideas for appropriate projects and ideally it would be worthwhile involving the local school children in this type of initiative.

Tidiness:

The shopping list to Clare County Council was noted but there are other areas that need to be addressed that fall within the responsibility of the local community.

There are a number of house building sites that are a bit messy at present and it is hoped that these will be tidied up in due course when building is complete.

The area around the Kerry Business and Farm Store is untidy and not in keeping with the rest of the village streetscape. Can tarmacadam be applied to this area to tidy it up.

There are one or two unoccupied houses (one with abandoned car and weeds growing up behind it) that are slowly approaching the derelict category

The boundary wall and over grown area across from the memorial park needs to be attended to and made good. Maybe the committee can use its collective tact in broaching what can be very sensitive issues in any small community.

Residential Areas:

The Village has some very well presented and maintained residences with colourful gardens and various forms of planters.

The Hillview Estate is a very well maintained and has done very well in the Clare County Councils Annual Estates Competition over the years, but do all the cars belong to residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The quality of planting arrangements at various entrances has already been commented upon. The individual Failte stone signs, impressive post and rail fencing and very well kept green verge areas complement these.

The Road surfaces in from both Ennis and Killaloe were very good, surfaces from Link roads such as Reddons Quay and indeed out from Scariff were a little rough in parts.

The adjudicator noted that further road surfacing is due to take place in the aftermath of the completion of the Memorial Park and this should bring an even standard all round.

General Impression:

It is always nice to visit Tuamgraney and with your new harbour you will have many additional visitors to your Village.

The History associated with Tuamgraney from the Vikings to Brian Boru to the War of Independence is very much a source of interest for the many foreigners that come to East Clare.

You are fortunate to have the East Clare Heritage Centre as a historical resource.

The Village continues to impress and hopefully you as a community will achieve your goal in this competition in the years ahead.