

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Attanagh** Ref: **303**
County: **Laois** Mark: **195**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	23
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	195

Overall Development Approach:

Attanagh Tidy Towns Committee should perhaps consider meeting more frequently, as 5 meetings per year seems quite few to achieve your aims. The idea to erect a monument to the village's glorious past seems like an interesting one - keep us informed as to how this is progressing. Have you drawn up a development plan? This document need only be a few pages long outlining your plans and objectives for the future of the village and setting a time limit against their implementation. You can use this year's report and those from previous years to form its basis. It was disappointing to note that you left much of the application form blank and that you had declined to include a map with your submission, which also seemed to be the case last year.

The Built Environment:

The old Church of Ireland is a fine building in its prominent location on the bend in the road. We were pleased to see a planning application up which will hopefully mean a new lease of life for this wonderful structure. The post office looked very fresh on the day.

Landscaping:

Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village were admired. New trees and hedging appeared to have been planted on the Durrow road and will pay dividends in years to come. Grass verges throughout were well maintained and sported attractive tubs of flowers at strategic locations. The village pump should be repainted and its surrounding wall re-whitewashed before next year's competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank. This is an area which is becoming more and more important in the competition. Have you considered consulting local

experts regarding the wildlife habitats that are to be seen in your locality and perhaps drawing up a management plan for them?

Litter Control:

Your plans to take part in this Inter-Community Litter League organised by Laois County Council is commendable. As are plans to erect new bins and organise litter pick up evenings. The standard of litter control on the day could have been better, as even one or two papers are all the more evident in a village of Attanagh's size. A few were visible on approach roads at verges.

Waste Minimisation:

This section of the competition relates to the segregation of waste, recycling and composting, as well as the provision of recycling facilities. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. They have suggestions such as the organisation of seminars on recycling and the holding of composting workshops etc. The recycling area on the Cork road was neat on the day with no evidence of dumping. The recycling area was quite neatly presented.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a reasonably neat and ordered appearance on the day.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the long stretch of roadway were generally well maintained. Of note were the attractive cottages and gardens with tubs of petunias at their entrance gates -one with a marvellous display of lavender. A most attractive house with window boxes and bird table opposite the church was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the village were generally reasonably well tended. Signage was unfortunately quite grubby on the day-this included nameplates, directional signs in the village centre and the "Drive Slowly through the Village" sign. Timber post and barbed wire fencing should be replaced with indigenous hedging or stone-walling. Road finishes appeared to have been recently resurfaced and new pathways were admired.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Attanagh for the first time. It is a village that has the potential to do well in the competition with the right level of commitment from the local community.