

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Emo** Ref: **413**
County: **Laois** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your submission, which was most helpful on the day. The fact that you have so much voluntary help in the summer must be of great assistance in your work. The weekly meetings during the summer are laudable. The opening of Emo Forest Walks must be a cause for great celebrations. Your work with Leader, Coillte, GAA, Laois County Council, ICA and the Heart Council in this regard, is to be commended. The map at the gates to Emo Court was noted and admired.

The Built Environment:

The work to St. Paul's Church and grotto is commendable and both looked fresh and well presented on the day. The unusual topiary at the church was greatly admired. Good luck with your application for a Heritage Grant in relation to the restoration of the shelters and associated garden opposite the church. What is the history of this particular area? It seems most interesting. We read with interest of plans to upgrade the Park Inn. Do ensure that any renovations are in keeping with the nature and character of the village. The fact that the new owner is involved on the committee will be helpful in this regard! The stone building opposite was admired. The national school looked most fresh with attractive window boxes.

Landscaping:

The landscaping of the two churches is to your credit. The grass verges on approach roads looked somewhat overgrown on the day. You mention in your application, work to the GAA pitch wall. Creeper was noted at this location on the day – presumably this formed part of the planting plan? Freshly painted red gates added an attractive splash of colour. We look forward to seeing your work opposite the church and at the picnic area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The opening of the Emo Forest Walks is something that will be of great benefit to the area and to the many visitors that Emo Court must attract. It was certainly very busy on the day- even quite early in the morning. The provision of a bridle path in this location is a good idea. The fact that you only trim a metre width of the grass verges in order to let the rest grow naturally is a good idea. It should be visually most effective, although on the day it looked quite overgrown.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was quite good with only the odd paper evident on the Mountmellick approach road and near the school. The litter patrols are obviously paying off! The fact that the children are confined to back roads to avoid traffic is a good idea-presumably they are kitted out in reflective jackets and have adult supervision. Your participation in the Laois Clean Up is commendable.

Waste Minimisation:

The fact that you segregate litter on pick ups is laudable. This category of the competition relates to waste management, segregation, recycling and composting issues. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. The Race Against Waste Brochure also contains some good ideas.

Tidiness:

The work to signage was obvious on the day, as it looked quite clean. The removal of flyposting and the weed control measures are laudable. The entry to the woods beyond the main entrance to Emo Court sported some damage to its stone walling. Screen messy yard areas from public view- one on the approach from the motorway had quite a grubby boundary wall. The tin roofs to the 2 buildings, which incorporate M Ni Floinn's, should be repainted their traditional green colour.

Residential Areas:

The gardens of the houses leading down to the roadside from the main approach from the motorway were greatly admired and contribute well to this category of the competition. The freshly painted houses opposite were admired. An attractive garden beside the entrance to Emo Court created a good impression. Some attractive gardens and houses were noted en route to St John's church.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the town were inconsistent in appearance on the day. The Limerick road was reasonably well maintained, given the construction work taking place on the day, but the Dublin road looked quite neglected. We look forward to the implementation of traffic calming measures, which are presumably the end result of the current works? We also look forward to the projects you propose in these areas once works are complete. The roundabout at the square had been well adorned with flowers. Directional signs in the centre of the town at Bank of Ireland were rather grubby. The picnic area was admired. The timber deer sculpture at the welcome sign on the Portarlinton road was admired.

General Impression:

Emo is an attractive village, which the adjudicator visited with pleasure for the first time. It has the potential to perform well in the competition.