

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timahoe** Ref: **875**
County: **Laois** Mark: **207**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

Timahoe Tidy Towns Committee seems to be a dedicated and committed one. You would appear to have a close working relationship with local schools and the Laois Leader Programme.

The Built Environment:

The commercial premises along the main streets of the village generally looked well on the day. Keightley's is an attractive simple shopfront with interesting original signage. The church and grounds were well maintained, although its rear boundary wall will need attention before next year, as will the gates. St Brigid's Hall was also in need of attention. The library in an old (Church of Ireland?) church is an attractive building. The round tower and associated ruins are a marvellous asset to have in the village. The Health Centre looked quite fresh on the day and sported attractive window boxes. Delaneys was admired and looked quite fresh but will possibly need painting before next year's competition. Kerr's incorporating the Post Office will need painting before next year's competition, and another property on the opposite side of the Portlaoise road also looked quite neglected. The Tower Inn was well maintained.

Landscaping:

The large expanse of open space at the Village Green is a fantastic asset to have in the centre of the village and many another centres would be quite envious of it! It was well maintained on the day, and its attractive bandstand was admired. You have obviously undergone a tree-planting programme over the years and many indigenous species are coming along well, including the fine ash and sycamore trees. There were attractive floral displays throughout. The graveyard was well maintained, as were the playing fields. The sculpture of a bronze cockerel etc at the round tower appears to tell an interesting story-perhaps you could explain it in your submission for next year's competition? The signage in this location should be washed down regularly as it seems to attract the unwanted attentions of local bird life!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of your application form blank. This would appear to have been the case last year also to judge by the report from that date. As suggested then, you should read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. Have you considered commissioning a wildlife management plan or getting the local schoolchildren to conduct a wildlife survey for you? Erecting wildlife information boards to inform people of the local habitats in the area would be another idea. There was certainly no shortage of bird life on the day with wood pigeons, swallows and other species being quite vocal on the day!

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was good on the day. The odd paper was noted along the Swan Road.

Waste Minimisation:

This category 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 give suggestions such as the organisation of seminars on recycling and the holding of composting workshops etc. The recycling area to the rear of the church was well maintained.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Weed control was a minor problem on Swan Road. A derelict property to the rear of the church looked quite sad and neglected. The railing to the bridge over the stream leading to the round tower looked quite patchy and will need painting before next year. Pallets and gravel appeared to have been abandoned to a derelict house at the rear of the church.

Residential Areas:

Both individual houses on approach roads and street houses were generally well cared for on the day. Those on the village green were particularly admired. An attractive cottage with lovely floral displays near the Round Tower looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is little sense of arrival in Timahoe on the approach from the Portlaoise, as there didn't appear to be a nameplate visible. Some poles were in evidence and it was wondered whether the sign had been damaged and not replaced? The signage for the round tower was quite grubby in this location. Besides this the road was quite well maintained. The Swan road was quite overgrown beyond the nameplate but improved at this point. The nameplate will need repainting before next year. Directional signage in the village centre was also in need of attention. We note your comments regarding the problem of maintaining 7 roads. This must be quite arduous-perhaps enlist the help of local residents in order to persuade them to maintain the areas in front of their own premises?

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Timahoe for the first time. It is an appealing and peaceful place with all the necessary ingredients to do well in the competition!