

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Loughill** Ref: **462**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **224**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **09/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>224</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The Loughill West Community Development Association is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition, and your committee of twenty is obviously doing a great amount of work, which is of benefit to the whole community. A committee of twenty is quite large, and you might consider sub dividing the group which may be beneficial overall. It is noted that you have received support of the Limerick County Council, local residents and businesses.

### **The Built Environment:**

Very pleased to note that the Resource Centre has been completed, and includes IT facilities. You might consider putting a notice board outside the building, as sticking notices on the windows is rather unsightly. The Church and grounds were well presented. The School with its nicely landscaped grounds looked well, though the windows needed painting. Hanrahan's Foodstore and Petrol Pumps looked well, as did the Stone Yard business, with its tidy yard, but perhaps some form of screen fronting on to the N69, with suitable planting, would improve this premises. The Angler's Rest also looked well, but the R O'Shaughnessy and The Bird's Nest premises are both in need of upgrading.

### **Landscaping:**

During inspection, two very hardworking men were busy clearing up the flower beds, shrubberies, cutting grass, and removing the debris, hopefully for composting? The Rose bed was just in flower, but the mesh placed on the bed to deter weeds was unsightly and probably doesn't help the roses as they require a lot of feeding and water. The raised shrubbery was well planted and maturing nicely. The green areas on both approaches to the village were looking well, but would suggest that the trees could be improved by the removal of the lower branches and grass/weeds from around the base. Unfortunately the hanging baskets were not in place on the bridge, and the plant troughs on the stone wall were in need of replanting. This, I

expect, can be explained by our very inclement weather in May. Keep up the good work in this category, but before you plant more trees/shrubs, please maintain the lovely plantings you already have in place.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is noted that you are continuing to work with Birdwatch Ireland and have plans to have an information board erected in the village. The pair of swans feeding in the river on the day of inspection was most attractive. The village is in a wonderful natural wildlife setting as it nestles beside the majestic Shannon Estuary, with its marshlands. The Picnic Area, with its attractive wooden tables and chairs, is positioned very close to the car park, and perhaps a more suitable and safer site could be identified. Work was underway to clear up the FAS sponsored seating area by the River Owvane, but access to this area could be improved by the addition of a proper pathway. Please continue your good work in this category.

#### **Litter Control:**

Again litter control this year was good, and no doubt with the provision of litter bins and the community, and particularly the youth, Pick up Litter campaign has helped. Some litter had gather at the corner by the raised bed near the petrol pumps and at the gateway close by.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet in order to gain more marks under this heading. The booklet gives information on composting, recycling clothes and the participation of the School in the Green Schools initiative, etc. You already have a bring bank, so some waste is being recycled, and you mention that you are promoting composting. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village presented quite well in this category. The broken concrete pipes on the Foyes approach need to be removed; the shed by the Bring Bank needs painting, and the covered mound of gravel is unsightly. It is important that after the green areas have been cut that all cuttings are removed, and preferably composted.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the private dwellings are in very good condition, but some residents need encouragement. The new housing development on the Foyes approach is very attractive and the residents have planted up their gardens very attractively. There is an opportunity to develop the landbank in front of this estate. The Woodhaven Housing Estate was also well presented, but weeds need to be removed from the kerbside.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Both the Loughill and Drive Slowly signs on the Foyes approach need cleaning, and the Picnic Sign on the Glin Approach needs adjusting/cleaning. The road and pathways were mainly in good condition, but the surface on the Ballyhahill Road needs attention. And the road surface by the housing development on the Glin road needs resurfacing, as does the roadway in the new housing development.

#### **General Impression:**

Being located on the N69, Loughill West has to contend with some very heavy traffic, and your committee is working well to make the village an attractive place for the locals and visitors to enjoy. The village is in a most picturesque setting, by the Shannon Estuary, and we would encourage you to continue with your efforts, working with Limerick County Council and other bodies, to improve your village's standing in the competition.