

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Murroe** Ref: **464**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Murroe is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for the detailed map which was most useful. The entry from was incomplete insofar as you made no specific mention of work completed or any project planned for the future, which is disappointing. It is noted that you receive support from Limerick County Council. With the influx of new citizens to the village, you could consider inviting some of them to join with you in planning some worthwhile projects, some of which could brighten up the village.

The Built Environment:

Like many Irish villages, there is indeed a tremendous amount of residential building, but it does not encroach on the character of the centre of the village. The Church and grounds were well maintained, but the fine gates and railings, dedicated to the O'Malley family, needs attention. The school with its attractive murals was well presented, but the boundary walls need painting in the same colour scheme. The Post Office, GAA Club, Muintir na Tire, Credit Union all looked well but Teach Ceoil needs painting, and the Garda Station is weather stained. Some of the business premises also presented well, including Daydreams Crèche, the shop at the cross, Aherns, Reals and at the Valley Inn, the woodwork and side entrance needs attention, and the Ryan coat of arms needs painting, and Head to Head somewhat striking. The Glenview Pitch & Putt Course looked inviting on the day, and was very well maintained. It is noted that you are holding off on any further projects for the village until the redevelopment work is completed.

Landscaping:

There are many fine mature trees about the village and most were in good condition. The planting by Glenview is lovely but the high grass around them needed cutting. The green area around the monument was well maintained, but this area could be brightened by planting some dwarf evergreen shrubs edged with summer bedding, and with an under-planting of spring bulbs, catering for all seasons. The shrub border at the

Annacotty approach needed weeding. The entrance to Glenstal Abbey looked very well. The Valley Inn had a good floral display, but one old window box had been neglected. Many of the private dwellings' floral displays were admired, including the Georgian style house; the bungalow with the beautiful rose display and resting gnome, and the display at the Credit Union was very good, as was the landscaping by the nicely painted old pump.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Village Amenity Park, with its information boards detailing the various types of trees in the wood, is very fine indeed. And you are also fortunate to have Glenstal Abbey and its wonderful grounds close by, where a pair of swans was noted caring for the three young cygnets. Please do refer to the Tidy Towns manual where you will get further ideas for wildlife projects, which the schools may wish to, participate in.

Litter Control:

A light sprinkling of litter was noted about the village, by the GAA club and inside the gate of the amenity park, and on the approach road from Annacotty, and the litter control situation was pretty bad in Gilmartin Park. You have sufficient litter bins – one was overflowing by Aherns, which vary in style and standard – some pretty bad, and need replacing.

Waste Minimisation:

You again make no reference to this category. This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on organizing car/van runs to the nearest recycling centre, composting, recycling clothes, Green Schools initiative, etc. Your committee may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

There are a few areas in the village that need attention, including the removal of graffiti on a couple of buildings; the old rusting pumps at the old BP garage are unsightly and the business premises by the old forge is very untidy. Weed control was lacking around the shrub area on the Annacotty entrance and in Gilmartin Park; there was quite an amount of foliage debris on the pavements, and hedge and verge trimming was behind schedule.

Residential Areas:

For the size of the village, there is an amazing amount of new housing development work ongoing. The Meadow Phase I complete and II is well underway and the dwellings are very well presented, and the greens and trees looked very well, but weed control was lacking at the kerbs. Many of the properties in Gilmartin Park were in good condition. Ros Fearná also looked well, and the shrubbery, trees and beech hedge all were admired. The green had already been sown in the new Garrabawn development, even though building work is only at an early stage. The dwellings in Liscreagh are a credit to their owners, and many of the cottages in the Rent an Irish Cottage scheme had been freshly painted, and one had a lovely window box display. As mentioned above, many of the private dwellings on the approach roads and in the village centre presented very well. There are a few by the Post Office which need refurbishment, and one with a planning notice. The signage at the new housing estates was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The signage was in good order as were the roads. One of the information boards at the centre of the village is weathered, and you might consider lowering the posts as they are very high and difficult to decipher. As mentioned, the hedge and verges needed trimming.

General Impression:

Murroe is a set in some of the most beautiful countryside, close to Glenstal Abbey and the beautiful Clare Glens. Your committee has done much to improve your standing in the competition, but you seem to have put all on hold because of the ongoing housing development work.