

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Strand** Ref: **469**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **251**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Strand is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your entry form, useful map, and congratulations to your Committee of six for the way you have developed your village over the years. Your close working relationship with FAS, Limerick County Council and the West Limerick Resources, and the locals, including the children, has obviously been beneficial. We wish you well in future competitions.

The Built Environment:

The presentation of the buildings in the village of Strand was very good, with An Tigh Bothántaíochta and its thatched roof, the Park with ornamental fountain, and the Grotto and surrounding area very attractively presented. Ó Seanacháin's Bar and parking area needs attention. The 1999 National Tidy Towns Endeavour Award plaque was proudly displayed at the centre of the village.

Landscaping:

The village boasts some very fine stone walls, and every available nook and cranny was well planted with summer bedding, perennials and dwarf shrubs. All the planters – tubs, troughs, hanging baskets, raised beds - throughout the village were in full bloom, quite an achievement in light of our inclement weather in May. The landscaping at the Grotto and Park was most eye-catching. Many of the trees are maturing well, but a few need replacing. And all the hedges and green areas had been trimmed and cuttings cleared up (hopefully for composting?). And many of the gardens of the private dwellings looked very attractive. Well done to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Like many Irish villages, Strand is set in a beautiful valley which is a natural wildlife habitat. The area by An

Abhainn Hernic looked very well, and could be enhanced by the planting of some wild flowers, which will in turn attract butterflies and the like.

Litter Control:

Your weekly litter patrol is paying dividends, and the village fared well in this category. The litter bins are also well positioned. But smokers should be discouraged from throwing their cigarette butts into the ornamental fountain.

Waste Minimisation:

Noted that you share a Bring Bank with the village of Monagey just along the road and the school in that village is being awarded the Green Flag. But this is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information organizing car/van runs to the nearest recycling centre, composting, recycling clothes, etc. Your committee may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

There are few areas that need attention, namely the painting of the old pump by the bridge; the old rusting corrugated roof is unsightly at the back of one of the dwellings, in view as one sits in the park; weed control in the vacant site beside the yellow house and around the paving in Cois Abainn; grass needs trimming by the Cois Abainn sign, the steps needs sweeping on the way down to the river, and a rusting farm gate on the Tournafulla road.

Residential Areas:

There are many, many private residences in the village and all must be congratulated on the manner in which they maintain their properties. The Cois Abainn housing area is very attractive, but the removal of the Christmas lighting on one would improve the estate. The adjudicator would question the safety of locating a children's play area so close to the river. You do have just one neglected dwelling, opposite the Grotto, but hopefully you will resolve this problem in time.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most of the signs on the approach roads to the village were well maintained and visible, but the 'slow through the village' sign needs painting. Congratulations to all concerned on the use of the Irish language on many signs in the village. The roads and pavements were in good condition, and we note that you have plans for improving the road markings.

General Impression:

Strand, with its close proximity to Sliabh Luachra, is a most attractive village, and we can only compliment and congratulate everyone connected with the way in which you present your village. And be envious of those living there. Well done to all concerned.