

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annalore** Ref: **584**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **205**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your application form. It was short on support documentation - most other committees include a Development Plan, and this is just as important in a small village as in a larger. Most other committees also use the Rural Area maps supplied by the Ordnance Survey, which are to scale and mark all buildings and physical features; your map was difficult to follow as it did not even mark the river which is the focal point of Annalore; you would find the Ordnance Survey map very helpful. (The handwriting on some entries was also difficult to follow.) It is good that you engage the help of FAS and that you are in communication with the County Council.

The Built Environment:

It is unfortunate that one of the most conspicuous buildings is a vacant house and this could not but give a negative impression. The extensive commercial buildings require attention. The old schoolhouse looked very well indeed, but it is more properly considered under 'Residential' buildings (below) because it is assumed to be privately owned.

Landscaping:

You have achieved a high mark in this category. It was encouraging to see that the green on the Newbliss side was so neatly maintained, the shrubs and flowers appropriate to the quaintness of the village. Planting on the river bank below a substantial house was attractive as you look across the water from the Clones side. It is encouraging to read that you plant bulbs for Spring flowering.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You mention the wetlands on the Newbliss side that attract swans. In an area so rich in mature trees, meadow

and river, other habitats must surely be numerous and interesting as well. It does not seem that you have made efforts to interpret this rich natural heritage for the appreciation of the public and to encourage sensitive visits, especially by children - or, if you have, you do not mention it. The simplest way, and the most popular, is by the provision of illustrated boards showing the native flora and fauna, and by signposting walks. With a committee of six this should not be a difficult task to start upon, and should lead to other worthwhile projects.

Litter Control:

Your litter gathering campaign is clearly working well. There was hardly any disposable litter in Annalore on the date of the visit. Congratulations to the residents.

Waste Minimisation:

This is an average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category which will assume greater importance as time goes on. To make further progress please see your Race Against Waste booklet which was included in this year's TidyTowns' pack, and the County Council staff will undoubtedly offer advice when asked.

Tidiness:

Verges were weedy on the approach roads, and it was surprising to find weeds on the gravel strip on the Clones side of the bridge. Hedges required cutting in parts of the village area; wild hedges are appreciated in non-residential areas but neatness is expected in residential. Where grass has been trimmed, clippings should be removed at the time, and poisoning of weeds is discouraged because dead foliage gives an untidy look.

Residential Areas:

Annalore is almost entirely residential. Apart from vacant premises - and these detract considerably - the private homes were very pleasantly presented. Perhaps pride of place should be given to the house with its entrance at the landscaped triangle where, beyond the handsome fencing, a pretty garden could be seen. Killycoonagh is a singularly handsome Georgian house. A house on the main road to Killeevan was admired for its wonderful copper beeches. Promising work was seen at a new house at the start of the old Killeevan road; its completion will be looked forward to.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road is very well surfaced. Side roads are surfaced to an acceptable standard. The old Killeevan road is now a pretty country lane.

General Impression:

Annalore has the potential to be the most attractive village in the county. But to make real progress a short plan is needed which would identify your priorities and also allow the adjudicator see the progress being made. Your increase in marks this year is well deserved but a lot more could be achieved for future years.