

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inniskeen** Ref: **556**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **239**
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

This was this adjudicator's first visit to Inniskeen following a gap for several years, and it was a real pleasure to note the improvements that have been made in the interim - improvements which may seem slow to those who do all the hard work. Your landscaping was seen to be particularly fine, with residential areas well above average, litter control good and roads well kept. It may be that you should be due additional marks because of providing comparatively little information about your activities on the entry form, and because of lack of support documentation; also, some of your replies were difficult to read. Please also differentiate clearly between work undertaken/completed and work which is planned for the future. Your map was most informative and useful.

The Built Environment:

The splendid church and its ancillary buildings were very well maintained, as was also noted in last year's adjudicator's report. The Patrick Kavanagh Centre was presented to the high standard expected. The picturesque old church was still in need of re-roofing and weed growth removed from the belfry; it is hoped that this can be done before long, for this is a most significant site both visually and historically. O'Neill's Bar with its attractive traditional design and bright paintwork was photographed and will be entered for the Shopfront Award. An old building nearby was seen to be undergoing extensive renovation. The School and the Credit Union were also well presented.

Landscaping:

The landscaped area that impressed most was around and in front of the church where the roads meet, creating a delightful public park. Planting at the Kavanagh Centre was also admired - especially the treatment of the car-park and its boundaries. The area round the Kavanagh silhouette - a striking and evocative monument - was most gracefully adorned. In general, the roadside planting throughout was of high standard of

design and maintenance - especially pleasing was the corner of the road leading to Dunard and a boundary wall of housing on the main road nearby. The railway arch project is a most imaginative idea which will look even better as permanent planting matures - is it intended to do the same on the other side of the bridge as a kind of Welcome Arch to Inniskeen? The playground equipment was colourful and clean and the surroundings quite picturesque.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting and nurture of trees comes under this heading - congratulations on your initiatives in a number of locations. The nature trail with signs for walkers and information on flora and fauna is precisely the way to encourage appreciation of the natural environment. The Fane River in its course through the neighbourhood has been sensitively exploited in this regard. (Would the dismantled railway line prove suitable as a further facility for the growing tourist market for walkers, as a future project?)

Litter Control:

Your litter control programme is obviously working well. There was very little disposable litter in Inniskeen on the date of the visit, except on the road up to Dunard. It is most encouraging to read that you are involving school children.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a average mark given in the first year of this new category - a category that will assume greater importance as times goes on. Your bring bank was tidy on the date of the visit. You will find information in the Tidy Towns documentation about the recycling of waste materials and how to go about fulfilling the needs of business and other local institutions.

Tidiness:

Hedge clipping in the village area was neat and kerbs were free of weeds. A surprisingly untidy spot was noticed almost opposite the Community Centre. Work on a formerly vacant building was seen to have been started (as mentioned above).

Residential Areas:

Two lovely cottages with bargeboards were seen near the church, and two others in matching style beside them. A stained cottage near the old church was seen, and some front boundary walls needed freshening up with paint. The houses at St Daligh's Terrace were notable for their roadside gardens, as indeed were a number of individual homes, significantly contributing to the good appearance of the village. The Dunard estate was well kept, with a spacious green and well presented houses; additional tree-planting on the banks leading up to the estate would further enhance this pleasant locality. Do use your influence with the local council and property developers to ensure that any further housing is in keeping with the existing village, and that building sites within the village area are to be preferred to remote locations on the outskirts, to preserve the sense of community.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces were good to excellent - particularly the Carrickmacross road. The church car park was a model of neatness. Public lighting installations were seen to be of good design. Inniskeen is notable for its well presented signage - especially the signposting of places of historical and literary interest.

General Impression:

This has been a particularly interesting and pleasing village to visit. A real sense of pride in the traditions of the neighbourhood and in enhancing both the built and the natural environment was patently obvious. Every good wish for the continuation of your imaginative and effective work.