

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tydavnet** Ref: **614**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **230**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

There is no doubt that Tydavnet's participation in the competition is a community effort of the best possible kind - regularity of meetings, involvement of schools, assistance from local businesses and the co-operation of the official bodies. This adjudicator had not visited Tydavnet in the past and was much impressed not only by what was seen, but also by the historical and cultural component of the work which, in fact, forms an exceptionally interesting and solid base for the Tidy Towns effort in the village, its attitude and expression. The Graveyard project is a first rate initiative. Incidentally, Tydavnet is ill served by signposting from some directions. Your detailed illustrated map of the village and surroundings was one of the best received this year.

The Built Environment:

The fine Hiberno-Romanesque church in stone is the most prominent building in the village and was beautifully presented in its well kept grounds. The school was also maintained in excellent condition: how lucky are the children of Tydavnet to have the benefit of such a place! The roadside murals added colour and also told a remarkable story in highly graphic terms. Business premises were also well presented, as was the Community centre at the turn for Scotstown.

Landscaping:

The shrubbery and bedding in the school grounds and the adornment with planting of the various historical and informational sites, as well as the hanging baskets, provided a well cared for look throughout the village. The new path to the Sliabh Beagh sign was very nicely designed and executed. Of particular interest was the Tydavnet stone plaque, full of information and beautifully presented. Stone features at the other end of the village looked well. It is hard to decide if the Graveyard project should be noted under this heading or under Buildings or again under Natural Amenities because there is no specific category for 'Heritage' but for the moment let us treat it here - it does not much matter so long as it is acknowledged; the rise in marking

above is due in part to the excellent start made on the Graveyard project and there should be a considerable further rise when the work is completed. A project of such great socio-historical-archaeological interest has not been attempted before as part of the Tidy Towns competition in the county as far as this adjudicator is aware, so congratulations on the initiative and also on the allocation of funding. The fact that you have professional expertise is of fundamental importance. It will be very interesting to read the results of the work, which will presumably include an inventory of names and dates, and a visual catalogue of crests, coats of arms and other stonemasons' motifs. School children might be involved - for example, in researching what names on headstones are still to be found in the neighbourhood; McKenna? Traynor? We shall see!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your programme under this heading was unusually full. Interpretative signage was favourably noted at the school and also near the rookery. Bird boxes were seen - were they made use of? Tree planting comes under this category - it was good to see that mature trees had been planted in at least two locations.

Litter Control:

Your litter control programme was effective as usual. Congratulations to those who took part in your clean-ups.

Waste Minimisation:

This mark is slightly above the average (because of the excellently kept bring bank) in the first year of this new category - a category which will grow in importance as time goes on. Congratulations on your bring bank award. It is encouraging to read the local businesses recycle glass and cardboard.

Tidiness:

It is a tidy village. But: on the date of the visit the corner site opposite the graveyard was dishevelled; try to preserve and relocate the shamrock metalwork. And: the fine stone shed by the graveyard needed reroofing, preferably in slate.

Residential Areas:

It is the older houses that give the neighbourhood its real character. Some gables needed freshening up with paint. You should discourage the replacement of timber window frames with PVC on older houses. The suburban type houses were well presented, especially those with attractive gardens fronting the road. A house on the Clogher road was seen to be installing a handsome wooden fence.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surfaces of both main and side roads were good. Verges and hedges in the village area were neatly kept. The lighting standards were seen to be of excellent design.

General Impression:

To the casual passer-by, Tedavnet looks pleasant and well kept. To the more curious visitor, it reveals a wealth of interest and good husbandry. Every good wish for your continued success.