

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Horseleap** Ref: **295**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **203**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	203

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and welcome to the Tidy Towns competition of 2006.

Unfortunately there was no update on the activities report alluded to in last years report.

It is fairly obvious that you have problems with heavy traffic but the traffic management calming system has helped.

The lack of a sketch map made the task of identifying places of interest within the village somewhat of a problem for this adjudicator who had only a passing knowledge of Horseleap.

In actual fact it was hard for me to deduce where the Offaly and Westmeath parts were, mind you Ryan's Bar was acknowledging both County Flags

The Built Environment:

The Church was in an acceptable condition but the grounds and surrounding wall in particular could do with a bit of revitalisation.

The Graveyard was presented well except for the eyesore that is the "Tower" looking down from the surrounding embankment. Maybe this could be treated with anodised paint.

The premises of the dual allegiance Paddy Ryan's, the impressive property that houses Midland Nurseries and Midland Motors were admired for being in good condition and giving a good impression on the main Galway Dublin Road.

By the way it was good to see The Munster Flag flying it might have been a Limerick man in exile that put it there.

Landscaping:

The trees lining both entrances are young now but in time will give some seclusion to Horseleap. It is advantageous to have such an excellent Garden Centre in the village and it was immaculately kept, congratulations to the owners.
The Horseleap Sculpture and rest area were in very good condition but why has the ESB pole to be in such a prominent place.
As mentioned earlier the Church Grounds is rather drab, if the wall was painted and some containers with colourful plants dotted around it would make a big difference and be more inviting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Where are the wildlife areas that are "doing well"?
The Committee should consider getting advice from a local wildlife expert to identify one or two suitable projects that could be worked on.
The local school could be then invited to participate and help to identify the wildlife habitats of the area.
The final result could be the design and placement of an information board at a suitable location in the village.

Litter Control:

Heavy and also excess traffic generates an amount of residue and litter like cigarette butts at kerbsides.
Good to note that you have rotational system in place within the community, as whole and this is paying off as there was very little litter evident.
Keep the message of litter control to the forefront and make the transient traffic passing through that Horseleap realise that you have a litter free village.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category and the committee should consult its race against waste publication that was included with the original application.
This publication gives ideas on how to develop projects that help promote the concept of better waste management.
Any contribution to better waste management would help the village in a general context and would help it gain valuable marks in the Competition.

Tidiness:

Horseleap is very much an open Village and unfortunately any deficiencies, when it comes to untidiness, are plainly visible.
A number of back areas containing untidy outbuildings are not helping matters and it's difficult for any voluntary body such as Tidy Towns to address these issues to the satisfaction of all.
The overhead wires are more noticeable than in many other villages and in one instance the pole takes away from the one main focal point in the village.
The Church Wall area could be tidied up and the base cleared of weeds and other material

Residential Areas:

Horseleap is a residential area that has not been subject to large housing developments to date.
There are many nice private dwellings and well-kept gardens in the immediate environs and the village has still that very rural look about it.
The houses on the Ferbane road were very well maintained and added to the overall look of Horseleap.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances from both Galway and Kilbeggan were very acceptable and had traffic calming in place. The young trees planted will mature and give a feeling of more seclusion in the years ahead.
The Ferbane Road as mentioned was enhanced by the nice private dwellings on both sides.
The Mullingar entrance at the end of the village going west had verges that were little overgrown for such a narrow and twisty road.

General Impression:

Horseleap is a pleasant place, new to this adjudicator and certainly worth spending some time in.
It has potential but will not realise it until small issues are addressed under a few headings.
The Committee should certainly consider putting a 3 year basic plan together with clear objectives and this will

prove to be very worth while in the future.
Keep up the good work.