

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubber** Ref: **285**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **250**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent submission in the form of application, development and supplemental material in support of your application.

On some maps the Village is called Tober, in your submission Tubber and some individuals call it by its real Irish name Tobar.

The Village has done extremely well in the competition over the last number of years, one can see why as it was looking its best on a bright summers afternoon.

As you have rightly summed up in your plan for a small village "there is always something going on".

The active committee of 14 has certainly developed strong links with both Offaly County Council and other agencies such as FAS and it has benefited from this type of partnership.

The local community has obviously responded by backing your efforts.

The Built Environment:

The main village centre is small dominated by a few buildings the Church which was in very good state of repair and the grounds also well maintained. The School was being totally re renovated, a sign of growing number of pupils, and will be very eye catching when completed.

The other main premises the Cat and Bagpipes was being repainted so all in all Tubber Village was being totally revitalised. The Village Hall may not be exceptional but it was in good condition that serves its purpose well.

Kilmanaghan Graveyard was being tended on the day and was typical well kept rural graveyard.

Your point about the proposed new motor way helping development by diverting traffic from Tubber is well made and one can see that this will be the case.

Finally in this section one cannot but be taken by the splendid and compact GAA grounds complete with

clubhouse painted in a nice bright colour with tidy parking area.
It is a credit to the members whom I presume are mostly Offaly supporters on this border village.

Landscaping:

This is where the strength of the village lies and it takes a summer day to highlight its best features and there are many.

The mix of colour and foliage employed in the beds as one approaches from both ends is very effective and eye catching. These beds seem to be tended to on an ongoing bases as there is no over clutter.

The walk way and stone wall alluded to in the application is very impressive and the water feature is a fine example of good workmanship.

The Parklands is a testament to the partnership approach and would be the envy of many larger towns and villages.

It is a great source of pride to the Villagers as the adjudicator experienced when getting the low down from a local resident.

The splendid rose garden, which did not seem to be accessible, had some of the healthiest blooms seen so far this year and the stone wall surrounding contributing to it being a main village attraction.

Plans for the future should concentrate on enhancing what is in place as too much more additions may only spoil the effect that one experiences now.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The idea of having the bank planted with wildflowers at the splendid GAA grounds is certainly novel and most unusual for the location but maybe a distraction to opposing teams.

These are the simple type of actions that work best when trying to encourage the flourishing of wildlife. An excellent undertaking.

The fact that the children are being encouraged to take a greater interest in the village is something that you should build upon.

Maybe ask the principle to undertake a wild life project in conjunction with advice from the Wildlife Ranger

Litter Control:

The litter control was very good as the local population are taking your advice on board
The area around the recycling plant at the hall was kept very tidy.

Waste Minimisation:

The purchase of a ride on mower with built in mulcher is a first step and this also could lead to the acquisition of a composter for local community use.

The booklet that accompanied the original application package is a good source for ideas that contribute to better waste management.

Tidiness:

Tidiness was very good with a few exceptions.

The wire fencing that surrounds area opposite the school is certainly not in keeping with the high standard set. Also I would encourage people not to kill weeds at road sides with chemical solution and then leave them to decay.

This is becoming a common practice for practical reasons no doubt, but if not cleared verges can look worse than if over grown.

All signs were visible and clean and the village, which doesn't have too many commercial properties, was free from the ubiquitous fly posting.

Residential Areas:

The Village and its immediate surrounds is in reality the residential area, comprising of private and farm dwellings not forgetting the PO and the local hostelry.

Some of the houses both older and newly built ones had some very fine gardens on view.

One should discourage the over development of Tubber with a large quantity of new housing stock as it would spoil the uniqueness of Village.

Individual applications for new houses should be considered with due care and these should form the infill housing mentioned in last years report

There are villages all over the country that have been totally swallowed up by new housing schemes that have put a strain on the existing essential services.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main Moate to Tullamore Road has very inviting entrances from both ends with attractive planting arrangements already alluded to elsewhere in this document.

The link roads were in an acceptable enough condition but there is room for improvements.

Unsightly wire fencing should be replaced with the timber equivalent if possible.

General Impression:

Tubber is a place that would appeal to many people in this frenetic world.

Unspoilt, unhurried embracing change that is beneficial, lets hope it keeps these characteristics.

The Village has made progress in the competition, simply because there are positive things happening and the community has a sense of pride of place.

Keep up the effort.