

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyforan** Ref: **283**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **201**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	201

Overall Development Approach:

The material supplied with the entry form was most helpful at adjudication time. The pictures gave a very clear understanding of the progress of the development work. In particular the work at the amenity picnic area beside the 13 arch bridge. This is a wonderful project. The remaining plans for the village are very interesting and we look forward to furtherance of these objectives.

The Built Environment:

Stone walls form an important part of the built environment and there are many fine examples in this area of the village

The river bridge as mentioned above is one of the finest elements of the area and the 13 arches make a very spectacular sight particularly now that they are so visible to be enjoyed from the amenity area. The arrangement of the buildings in the village centre is interesting with the organisation of buildings mainly around the square or fair green. The church looks very well and forms a pivotal position on the fair green. The various business premises forming that square appear well tended and it is good to see pride in the village center as evidenced by the care and attention it receives, The Claremont house building looks very interesting and would make a fine restoration project if that proposition was economical and if the ownership of it permitted.

Landscaping:

There is a walled garden within the Claremont house which if available could have marvelous potential. The walls look very substantial and in the past this was most likely a beautiful garden of the house. The contribution made to the overall landscape of the village by a number of house owners is substantial and good credit is due to those who go about quietly looking after their road frontage gardens. The tree planting that has

taken place in the village is helpful. The new housing estates need special attention to landscape so that they will blend in well with the local landscape and not appear as they have been dropped out of the suburbs of a large city.

The two most prominent landscape features are the Fair Green and the Amenity area at the bridge. The fair Green – while being well kept is not very interesting or accessible as it stands. There are tremendous opportunities to develop this as an interesting amenity for the village centre and serious consideration should be taken here. The Amenity area by the bridge is a marvelous success and people can be very proud of this development – well done to all concerned. There is a walled garden within the Claremont house which if available could have marvelous potential. The walls look very substantial and in the past this was most likely a beautiful garden of the house. The contribution made to the overall landscape of the village by a number of house owners is substantial and good credit is due to those who go about quietly looking after their road frontage gardens. The tree planting that has taken place in the village is helpful. The new housing estates need special attention to landscape so that they will blend in well with the local landscape and not appear as they have been dropped out of the suburbs of a large city.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an aspect of the competition that would be well worth following up. There is great potential for wild life appreciation with such great access to the river. The amenity park was visited – this is interesting and nicely placed by the sports grounds. Other areas may well offer greater opportunity for enjoyment of the natural environment. The amenity park is a pleasant place to relax and sit. Consult the tidy towns handbook to consider other possibilities in the area. The Toughboy cemetery work is excellent and well done for this. This is interesting from a historical point of view but not a place for nature appreciation as all the area has been meticulously cleared of vegetation except for the grass. The cemetery looks extremely well and the maintenance is superb

Litter Control:

There is generally a good level of litter control in the village and surrounds. There is no note in the entry form giving any particulars of the management of the litter programmes or campaigns. Small amounts were recorded.

Waste Minimisation:

The bottle bank was noted and the area around this was well kept with no extraneous material left about. No mention is made of any programmes or work involved in your village in this aspect. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance and this is helped greatly by the orderly nature of the fair green with surrounding buildings. There is material dumped on the Roscommon road behind the “No Dumping “ sign which is very disappointing. It is not clear what the purpose of this area is at the moment and it causes concern. The entrance to Claremont is a little neglected and even if the view from the gate looked well it would be helpful. The disturbance caused by new building sites is troublesome. A careful watch should be in place to ensure that these sites are well finished off with sustainable planting. The wall to the front of the Claremont estate is broken in many places – this wall should be put back to its perfect state before the developers leave the site. This would help tie in the old with the new.

Residential Areas:

The established residential houses are well kept generally and people are taking pride in presenting an attractive frontage to their homes and gardens. The new housing estates need to have very good landscaping not only at their own houses but at the entrances and open spaces within the estate. The entrance for instance to the estate at the top of the road above the fair green leaves much to be desired and is very raw.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village are well maintained as they come close to the village. Care of the verges and hedgerows forms part of the maintenance programme for approach roads. It is important to strike a balance between a totally natural approach where overgrowth takes place and an over manicured effect. The road surfaces are satisfactory

General Impression:

The village is very well tended and the new projects planned will enhance the area more. The increase in housing will also have an impact on the use and need for various facilities within the village. A recruitment campaign should be started as soon as the houses are occupied to increase the number of members of the tidy towns committee and get new blood. Residents committees could be set up in each estate to care for the general problems that arise within the estates and to communicate collectively with the council to ensure proper services are received.