

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Frenchpark** Ref: **280**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **195**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	195

Overall Development Approach:

The detailed map, photographs, newspaper cuttings and information on the entry form were all very helpful at adjudication time. These gave an insight into the work of the tidy towns committee in Frenchpark together with the challenges that are faced. The fact that the Market House can now be sold is a very positive action. No doubt by next year this area will be totally transformed and end a long saga that has troubled the committee. It is good to see so many people of the village get involved in one form or another to help the improvements of the village and surrounds. In particular the number of young people appearing in the photographs submitted is very encouraging

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church looks very well now with the recent painting. The roadside wall and the adjoining house look very smart. The Art Gallery is an interesting little building. Behind this the shed appears a little out of context – perhaps with the right paint colour or with artistic influence from the gallery a novel colour solution might be found. There are a number of well tended premises through the village – mostly the busy shops. The funeral home is well presented. The Eden premises is not looking at its best along with a few others in the same situation. A stone building on the Boyle road looks well. The Garda station appears well and the Child Care Centre is a most interesting building and an unexpected find in the location. Improvements could well be made to many buildings by simply attending to paint and décor. The schools buildings are in good condition and appear well.

Landscaping:

The GAA grounds look very well and the large trees to one corner enhance this. There are lots of opportunities for further tree planning in areas around the periphery and it would be wise to plant trees for continuity sake. The areas of shrub plantings on the roadside give a pleasant welcoming aspect to the village

and are well cared for. The work at the school garden of organic vegetable growing as illustrated in the photographs looks very impressive. The grounds of the school look well. The Church grounds look very well. The planted corner site of the Castlerea road is a great project and well done to the young people who appear in the photographs carrying out this fine piece of work. The many new housing estates need to have their entrances and green open spaces well landscaped before the developers leave the sites and a watchful eye should be kept on this. Very often glossy brochures give a fine impression of a finished product which often does not materialise. Colourful summer bedding containers always give a very welcome splash of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We wish you success with the plan for the awareness programme on the raised bog nearby. This would make a very fine project and it would be great to have schools involved so that children could learn the value of their natural landscapes at an early age with very practical lessons and observations. The nesting boxes and bird feeders are helpful as they give people the opportunity to broaden their knowledge about birds and to record and count the visiting birds. The plan for the green area for natural plants to develop and provide educational information is also good. Action is needed on these projects.

Litter Control:

The work of collecting litter is well documented in your supplied information. The big cleanups are marvelous and very dramatic when the total collected material is measured. The day to day litter picking is equally important though more mundane. Some litter was noticed – perhaps with a match on this may be a difficult time. The idea of distributing leaflets is good as long as the leaflets themselves do not cause litter or present a further burden on recycling. Local Radio is very effective as also area signs which can be changed with various messages frequently.

Waste Minimisation:

The encouragement given by the committee to local householders to segregate the litter is excellent advice as this forms the basis of recycling. Congratulations to the school for their efforts in waste minimisation that have won them some prizes. The recycle bins were noted. 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 difficult buildings present the greatest challenge in this regard. Progress is being made and the response to last years report in this section is welcome. The Market House restoration and use will be a very positive move and hopefully this will also include the landscape surrounding this premises right to the back at the inner village road. There is grass growing from a number of gutters along the main street near the cross which does not present a good image. The absence of overhead cables is a great success and hopefully this can be extended to all areas.

Residential Areas:

The huge influx of housing estate developments is changing the face of the village very much. Much of this housing appears to be on the Castlerea road and is combining with a number of older very attractive single houses. The estate - Cloonshanville Park appears to be bursting out onto the inner road at the village and has disrupted the normal boundary at this point. Proper reinstatement will be needed. The other estates for example Abbey Court and Ashley Lawns will need careful landscaping rather than a scant few trees and poor grass in order that they merge well with the existing fine houses on this road. There are some residences along the Main Street and on the inner village roads. This idea is very traditional to have streetside housing in towns and villages and is a lovely idea keeping life within the village centre. Again some of these houses need frequent cleaning and painting due to the dust and dirt in the air from passing traffic.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village crossroads is also a very traditional format for an Irish village. This is attractive except in modern times the traffic is so busy that is difficult to emerge from the side roads safely. There is a constant flow of traffic and not one single safe place to cross the street which is very worrying considering children and older people. The road surface on the inner road is beautifully tarmacaded and is a great success. The church also appears to have benefited from this. The road surfaces on the other roads are satisfactory with some disturbance to the surface in places. Where new housing estates entrances or pavements meet the road there appears to be a very rough and raw edge to the roadsides which will need attention at finishing time. The approach roads are enhanced by the well tended grass verges and tree planting.

General Impression:

Progress is being made in the village. Major change is also occurring.. The constant encouragement, the work of the committee and all who work in the village is to be commended for achievements to date.