

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gortaganny** Ref: **316**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **173**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	173

Overall Development Approach:

The material supplied with the entry form was most helpful at adjudication time and gave a great insight into the activities of the village tidy towns committee work. The plans are updated which is a very positive approach to take. There are a large number of items in the list for this year and care must be taken not to be over ambitious in one year because all the existing projects need to be serviced as well. Recycling facility is listed for 2007 and perhaps this is more important than some of the 2006 projects. The Marian Hall 50 year anniversary booklet makes really interesting reading and it is great to have such records and to celebrate a hall that no doubt has had such a bearing on the lives of the community members at various times through their lives and of course continues to be all important.

The Built Environment:

The Marian Hall looks very well for its 50th anniversary and well done in the preparations for this. The school building and the Church are also looking well as is Coney Island public house and surrounds. The Lodge at the fishing pier hopefully will have a new lease of life at some future time. The road signs are very attractive and give a good identity to the village. Stone walls play a very important role in the village and these look well.

Landscaping:

The church grounds and school grounds look well tended. Individual gardens along the roadside contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village and are to be commended for this. The plans include some landscape work and this will be helpful. There are opportunities for tree planting along the roadsides. If permission could be obtained to plant inside boundaries such as from the Marian Hall along by the adjacent field - this would be very positive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The lake side offers interesting opportunities that should be investigated in conjunction with the school so that greater opportunities could be made available for enjoyment of the natural environment. The wooded areas nearby provide more opportunities, consult tidy towns handbook in reaction to these items.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control in and around the village. It is good to see litter management figure prominently in the plans for each year. The litter awareness week is a good initiative and the regular litter patrols help the situation very much. Constant vigilance is needed in this regard as litter from passing cars and casual dropping of small litter items is always a challenge

Waste Minimisation:

The mention of getting recycling bins is encouraging in the plans 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 tidiness aspect of the village is good with the well defined roads and well painted walls. The gable end of the church is in need of painting at the present. Fences are in good condition except along by the roadway from the Marian hall where they look untidy. The areas around the school, Marian hall and church all appear neat and tidy as does the car park of the Coney Island bar

Residential Areas:

The small numbers of residences around the village look after their homes and gardens and road frontages very well and create a nice impression within the village. Well done for this. It is important to watch for planning permission applications as many villages are being overwhelmed with new housing often devastating the main core of the village areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roadway through the village is fine. The traffic tends to travel a little fast and maybe more signs or some speed reducing steps need to be taken. The road to the pier is very narrow and incapable of two cars meeting. The space at the lodge could be improved for parking and better organised in general to give a well tended an attractive area with picnic tables and mown grass.

General Impression:

Well done for the very good achievements at the village and in particular for the concentration on the Marian Hall anniversary which hopefully will be a great success and will bring many people back to the village to celebrate.