

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Keadue** Ref: **745**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **285**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2006**
08/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	48
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	285

Overall Development Approach:

The committee in Keadue continues to demonstrate great skill in reaching for further developments and not resting on their laurels. The new proposals in the plan for 2006-2009 are very adventurous and will take the town to even greater achievement and beauty. The vast amount of upkeep to have the town looking as it does must be enormous and great credit is due to all involved. Fortunately the major building developments that have occurred in so many towns and villages in the surrounding counties have not occurred here. The fine combinations of assets in the town blend well together to make Keadue a truly interesting and beautiful place to visit.

The Built Environment:

The standards of buildings through the village are maintained at a marvelous level with paint and décor always looking so well. The Garda station and nearby assembly of the awards of the achievement of the town look extremely well. St. Ronan's Hall is well painted and has a nice array of containerised planting with summer colour. The Health centre also looks well. The credit union building is well presented although one letter is missing from the sign board. From the height of the O'Carolan memorial garden some corrugated iron roofed sheds appear behind the credit union which are not so attractive, similarly an iron corrugated shed appears at the start of the road leading to the Lios Beag estate on the road behind the church. The Catholic Church looks very well in its prominent position. Stone forms a very important part of the fabric of the town and there are so many fine examples of stonework giving great character to the town and surrounds.

Landscaping:

The work of the committee and residents comes to the fore in this regard with so many well landscaped and maintained areas of the town. The Keadue memorial garden is a delight combining a lovely range of plants, good lawns and paths and the buildings, shelters and sculpture sits so well amid the plantings. The feature at

the centre of the road outside the Garda station is very effective and the water feature works well. Similarly so the planted surrounds of the awards assembly. The triangular portion at the road junction near the Knockranny Wood is neatly kept and shows off the stonework to perfection. The detail of placing flowers around the stone surrounded water pumps on the approach roads gives a nice touch as do the name signs for Keadue. Many gardens of the village contribute very effectively by caring for their gardens so well and presenting beautiful road frontages. The new birch trees planted and the infill of Whitethorn is an excellent idea for continuity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Keadue is very rich in resources under this heading. The Knockranny area provides great interest both for leisure and for enjoyment of the natural environment. The walkways are very natural yet cared for in a very balanced way without intruding on the natural landscape. The miners walk is a very attractive asset and the signs in the village for these walks are well placed and non intrusive. The lake is a beautiful facility and a lovely attraction.

Litter Control:

The litter management appears to be very organised. Litter is hard to find except for a few pieces on the woodland walk. The cleanliness of the streets is remarkable and this is set off well by the very good surfaces on the roads and paths

Waste Minimisation:

In your planning there is a mention of placing recycle bins in the village – this would be very welcome as it would help the idea of recycling of materials. In your entry mention is also made of a meeting to encourage waste minimisation, this is very positive action and hopefully this will have a good impact. The positioning of the recycle bins should be carefully considered – they need to be access able on the one hand but they are not the most attractive items and having them on prominent view may not be wise. With the skills of the people of Keadue it will be possible to present these well within the context of the village. 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 new housing development at Lios Beag has a pleasant entrance even before the buildings have been fully completed – a lesson that could be learned by many estate developments in the surrounding counties. These houses are nicely tucked into the landscape and do not interfere with the core of the village. A watchful eye should be kept on planning applications so that people will be alerted to applications that would seriously effect the nature of the village – a practice which is happening frequently in rural villages. The iron roofed sheds as mentioned above are worth considering under this heading. Sometimes a coat of strong paint can do wonders with such structures

Residential Areas:

The main residences are along the roads of the village and approach roads. These are looking well and are showing great pride in their maintenance. The roadside frontage and upkeep of the houses gives a very good impression as one travels through the village from any approach road. Some new single houses have been built along the road below the church and these are fitting in very well. A new development is currently under way. Attention to paint and décor is an ongoing issue – for example one house on the Football pitch side of the road on entering the village has a gable end needing attention to painting

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces within the village are superb. The markings are very good. The road to Lios Beag is very unstable with rough repairs done following road works. The surfaces in the Knockranny wood carpark are adequate. The new non slip surfaces laid in the village are interesting and should help to avoid hazards. Each of the approach roads leading to the village is of very good quality – it is as if there is a formula for a quality standard pertaining in the village for approach roads. The grass verges so neatly kept, hedgerows well trimmed, trees and signage all looking so smart.

General Impression:

Keadue is truly a “tidy town”. Many years of hard work, persistence and determination have resulted in this

fine achievement. It is a credit to all who care for the village and take such a great interest in it continually.

Second Round Adjudication:

As a first time visitor it was a pleasure for the 2nd round adjudicator to visit the beautiful village of Keadue. One of the first things that was apparent on arrival in the village was how well the built environment has been integrated into the landscape. This has been achieved by judicious landscaping and generally good building design and layout. However some private entrances remain to be completed; on the road to the church several road boundary walls were also in need of painting. The wide main street with the flower tubs, and the beautiful hanging baskets looked well on the day of the visit. That is apart from the very poor litter control that was evident especially near the Hall. Litter was also noted at the lakeshore. Approach roads were excellently presented and the lush green verges provided a great introduction and sense of anticipation as one approached the village proper. There is a great sense in Keadue of a community at work to make their own place a better place, and that is one of the key objectives of the Tidy Towns Competition. Your future projects sound most interesting and the 2nd round adjudicator would like to wish you well with the 2007 work programme.