

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lecarrow** Ref: **790**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **211**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Lecarrow is an interesting village with some unique assets. The harbour area is a beautiful feature and nicely tucked away from the busy road and village shops. The old mill and river and the ancient tomb adds character and a sense of history to the village. The committee of 10 members is a sizable number for a small village and much good work has been done to date. The eleven years of experience of the competition is helpful. The voluntary work and the liaising with the school stand well to the village work

The Built Environment:

The business premises are well presented to the roadside frontage. The community centre looks well. This is well painted and the car park is well organised with the hedge planted in sections. A derelict building opposite the hall is unsightly and hopefully a remedy can be found for this. The school is extremely well presented and makes a delightful picture with the blue roadside walls, white building and red gates. This also makes a nice cheerful setting for the playground which is a very well fitted out playground and well done in achieving such a fine facility. The stone walls of the area and the quayside form an important part of the built environment and it is good to see these prominent. The tomb is an interesting feature to have within the village and the historic ball alley too. The public sewerage is causing some disruption and hopefully everything will be reinstated properly, especially stone wall features near the river. The future of the old mill will be interesting to follow

Landscaping:

A number of small landscape features were noted around the village and these look well. The border surrounding the ash tree in the harbour car park looked well and perhaps when the work of sewage is complete more such features will be made. On the main road frontage by the shops the grassed area and picnic tables are looking well and well used, a nearby shrub border is also helpful. Individual gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the village and surrounds. The window boxes at

the school are particularly well planted and cared for. Credit is due for this fine effort during the summer holidays.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The harbour area has great opportunity for wildlife observation and also the surrounds of the harbour by the river and among the trees. Some information as to what might be seen and when would all be helpful towards a fuller appreciation of this wonderful natural environment. When the sewage scheme is complete a comprehensive approach should be made to avail more of the wildlife facility of the village and involving the school in this project would be helpful.

Litter Control:

Litter control is generally good although some litter was noted along the way to the tomb including some black bags – this is annoying for all concerned. The emphasis on litter control in the village is good and the work of collecting, sorting and dealing with litter is not easy work especially when done on a voluntary basis.

Waste Minimisation:

Spreading the recycling message to the residents is a good action that you have taken. It would be great to have a range of recycle bins and to have everyone aware - including the children at the school, of the need to segregate and recycle materials.

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 disruption at the moment caused by all the work results in some untidiness and when all this is finished a new look can be taken of the entire village, assessing all the ways it could be made appear tidier without taking from the natural appearance. The walkway to the tomb is untidy with all the cut branches and overgrown plants. It would be good to clear the way here and make a greater feature of the walkway. This appears to be part of the old road that also passed in by the village shops

Residential Areas:

There are a small number of houses in the village and these appear to be well cared for. There is a good sense of local pride and this helps people to keep their properties and their gardens looking well towards the road frontage,

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road traffic appears to travel at fast speeds at the village. All ways to prevent this would be helpful. The road surfaces towards the school are very badly damaged from the recent work and expect there is more to come judging from the amount of heavy machinery in the car park at the harbour. No doubt all the surfaces will be restored when all the work is completed.

General Impression:

Lecarrow is an interesting little village going through some turmoil at the minute. This will be resolved when the work is complete. The need to watch for planning applications for building is important as many small villages in surrounding counties have been destroyed by massive housing developments and have lost the character of their village aspect