

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Loughlynn** Ref: **103**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **171**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	22
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	171

Overall Development Approach:

The village is a very compact style with almost all the features and buildings along the main stretch of the village main street. As mentioned last year a planned approach is needed. This is a good time to compile such a plan as there is a transition in place with all the building works and the consequences these will have on the village can be reflected in the plan. The formation of the plan could involve all the opinions of the various groups within the village: the residents of the new and old estates' the business people, the council , the schools, the Gardai , the young people and the senior citizens. A step by step approach could then be taken and this could be measured yearly. This approach would represent a very way of facing the future.

The Built Environment:

The new Community Centre looks well as does the school and Garda station – a little attention to the painting of the roadside wall at the Garda station would be welcome. The Church looks well although major work seems to be in progress there which is causing some disruption to its normal state. The areas opposite the Creatons premises looks very disorganised and either a more organised arrangement of the materials or some screening may help here. Stone walls form an important part of the built environment of the village and there are many good examples. It would be nice if the wall along the roadside of the new estate could be faced with stone. This would tie it in more with the existing landscape of the village.

Landscaping:

Very little information was entered in the entry form which is unfortunate as usually the information helps to focus on particular work that has been done in the location since the previous year. The Church grounds look very drab and perhaps now is the time for a rejuvenation of these grounds. The background trees would form a lovely foil for any new scheme. The entrances to the new estates and the open spaces within these estates needs to be carefully planted otherwise they appear as if they have been dropped from a high density

residential area of a city. The woodland background here would suggest that these estates should have a tree planting scheme. The greens and spaces observed seem to be very scantily landscaped to date. Individual gardens play a major part in providing an attractive landscape by the care and attention of their owners to the road frontage. Summer plant filled containers give some summer colour sparkle.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The amenity walk planned would be a good starting point for access to areas for environmental appreciation. The areas surrounding the village could also have possibilities. In the planning of such a project consulting a tidy towns handbook would be very helpful as would the compilation of local knowledge. Work with the school would be a good way of having involvement for children.

Litter Control:

The general condition of litter cleanliness is very good in the village. The areas surrounding the bottle recycle bins were very clean. Some small amounts of litter were noted on the street here and there. The larger the number of people involved in litter collection the easier it becomes. This also has the spin off effect of creating a higher awareness of litter freedom and consequently the litter decreases. Involvement of school children is indeed a good idea as it instills the message of avoidance of littering from an early age.

Waste Minimisation:

Your efforts to keep the bottle banks emptied regularly so avoiding people leaving materials by the side of these banks are 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 huge amount of work in progress on building sites at the moment is causing a disruption to the normal level of tidiness. The main street development and the Woodlands, Hanleys and Coillte Bo estates are not completed and the church work continues. When all of these projects are completed a reassessment can take place and an action plan put in place. The tying in of these estates to the village is important – for instance the Woodlands estate has areas at the roadside wall that are very raw and unfinished.

Residential Areas:

The original residences in and around the village look well and good credit is due to those people who go about caring for their houses and gardens in a way that presents a very neat and tidy road frontage. There are a number of streetside residences in the village and these are generally well painted and attended to with a few exceptions. It is good to have residents within the core centre of a village. The new estates are developing and it would be useful if resident associations were formed in these and that new members be recruited from these estates to the tidy towns committee.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Very good road surfaces are a feature of the village and immediately apparent on entering the main street. The road markings are excellent and the parking bays are marked out very well. The area by the bottle bank is good. Within the Coillte Bo estate the surface is not so perfect and some more work is needed. The approach roads to the village very quickly revert to long grass verges and perhaps some more mown areas of verge at entrances would be suitable.

General Impression:

The village is facing new challenges. This is a time to reflect and prepare a plan to meet the challenges of the future with the backing of all interested parties on board.