

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tarmonbarry** Ref: **743**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **215**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>215</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The plan submitted last year was not available this year – from the report of last years adjudication the plan was very interesting and pinpointed the way forward well. It would be wise to submit the plan each year with the entry form so that the adjudicator could see the pattern of developmental progress in the village. The great wealth of heritage and amenity present in the village and surrounds allows a magnificent opportunity to capitalise on these aspects and bring the village to its full potential. The huge amount of building construction taking place at present has placed much of the village in turmoil particularly at the village centre and by the harbour marina. Hopefully when all of this work is complete it will be finished off well and a more normal existence will return to the village.

The work of the fourteen strong committee in communicating with the local schools about the activities of the tidy towns committee is very useful as an approach to new blood is needed in all committees. The cooperation with public bodies is also a useful way of archiving success with projects.

### **The Built Environment:**

The business premises at the centre if the village all appear well and are carefully maintained. The amount of storage of kegs outside the premises is unfortunate and if these could be obscured in any way it would be helpful. It is very difficult to cross safely at this point and the parking that is permitted is unhelpful as traffic tends to move swiftly as it comes towards the village centre. The visibility with parked cars present can be difficult as well as giving the place s cluttered and disordered appearance. The bridge is attractive and the stonework is a good feature of the lock and surrounding area. The rails at the bridge would benefit from painting. ( this was planned according to the plan) The lamp standards along towards the marina harbour are ornamental and town like and perhaps with future developments a more basic style would be more in keeping with the situation. The upgrading of the grotto is a good idea as grottos of this type will now become part of

our heritage like many of the grottos in villages throughout Ireland.

### **Landscaping:**

The work along each side of the roadways leading out of Tarmonbarry on both sides is very valuable. There is a very long stretch of shrub planting on the Strokestown side and the care and maintenance of this deserves great credit. The wide grassed verges are well maintained and the overall appearance is very effective giving a welcome approach to the village. On the Longford side the great wide grass verges look very smart and the clusters of newly planted shrubs at the signs give definition, attractiveness and interest to break the large expanses of grass – perhaps these plants could be extended to give a greater area of coverage in keeping with the scale of the very wide verges. Good opportunities for landscaping are available at the entrance to the new housing estates and at the open greens within the housing estates – so far, some lost opportunities have happened in this regard as for example the estate behind the Londis store is devoid of proper landscaping and similarly at Riverview estate. Many of the gardens of houses along the main roads have attractive gardens and these contribute well to the overall landscape of the village. Containerised plantings – baskets and tubs give good summer colour and are a welcome sight. Tree planting in various places through the village give good effect.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The waterside amenities are attractive and could make for very interesting walkways and opportunities to enjoy the natural environment of the area. The planned two walkways described in your entry form will be welcome and we look forward to seeing these organised for next year – a walk along the Shannon and back by the country lane or through a bog road. Consult the tidy towns handbook in this regard as some useful advice could be gained so that the most could be made of the walkways planned.

### **Litter Control:**

There is good litter control in the area in general. Some litter was noted however at the car park at the end of the marina and this place should receive special attention as it is very vulnerable to littering. The work of informing national schools of your work with litter and advising how they help is very worthwhile. Also the taking of responsibility for different areas by committee members will help to get a better control system.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The success in achieving the Bring Back bank for recycling is a credit to the committee – hopefully this will be well used and emptied frequently to avoid people depositing materials alongside when full. 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:**

With all the development work currently in progress it is difficult to see a tidy picture emerging of the village at the present time. When all the work is completed a more settled situation will result and stock can then be taken of the needs for tidiness and how this can be achieved. The bottle bank is fairly untidy with deposits of materials left along side the bins. The long grass in estates on open greens does not give a tidy look to the estates or to the entrances.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residences along the main roads are well presented and make a positive contribution towards the overall appearance of the village. Efforts made by individuals are a great credit and these often form the backbone of the village appearance. The newer estates as mentioned above need encouragement to keep both the state of their own gardens and houses looking well – alternatively if the council has responsibility for the estate management lobbying should be done to see that work is completed. The manholes on the estate road behind Londis are unacceptable and whoever is responsible for these should be informed of their dangerous state as hazards on the road.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The main roads to either side of the village are in good condition. Some areas within the village have potholes and bumpiness which needs to be rectified. In many places where building construction is taking place the roads have been damaged and need reinstatement. The underground cabling within the village is very welcome.

**General Impression:**

Tarmonbarry has a beautiful setting and when all the building activity has settled recovery and assessment of the needs can be made. Care is needed to keep a watchful eye on planning applications that they do not pass through when they may disturb the quality of this beautiful setting. Provision for safe crossing for pedestrians is also a priority and cars do not necessarily have to take priority above pedestrians always.