

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tulsk** Ref: **305**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **195**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>195</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The very comprehensive plan submitted with the entry form shows a very positive commitment to making good strides with the village development. This plan focuses on all the important issues that are currently facing the village such as the major housings developments, the prospect of the sewerage works and the poor presentation of a number of buildings. The problems of traffic speed through the village are a further issue. The lack of attractive communal space and the need for walking routes and areas to appreciate the natural environment need to be addressed. While all of these issues are present there is no reason why basic maintenance work cannot be done at present like grass weed control, alleviation of potholes and making basic improvements to the properties in and around the village.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church is a fine landmark for the village, the Garda station looks well as does the Visitor Centre and surrounds. The main business premises are well presented also. The large Honda garage on the crossroads – while part of the building itself looks well the total surrounds and other parts of the building are unattractive and hopefully there will be vast improvements here shortly as it occupies such a pivotal spot in the village. The car park of the GAA pitches is very unkempt with the roadside boundary wall in poor condition and the surface very unsatisfactory. The old Abbey and graveyard are well presented and form an important part of the historical nature of the village. The Church car park is not in a very satisfactory condition and the two RSJs making the entrance do not appear well in their isolation from everything else and can only crudely serve the function of preventing vehicles entering of a certain width

### **Landscaping:**

Good efforts have been made with the containerised plantings adding a splash of summer colour to the village. The containers on the bridge are attractive and draw attention to the visitor centre. Efforts by individual

householders along the roadsides contribute well in this respect. The good stand of trees behind the graveyard looks well and any opportunity for extra tree planting should be taken to provide continuity of tree life in the village. The tree planting along the roadside of the church car park was noted. The pending widening of the village road will affect the landscape and provision should be made at this stage for proper tree planting, hedgerow and grass verge development.

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

The river is attractive and good work has been done in introducing the ducks – these were not seen unfortunately on the day of the visit. The bird sanctuary idea should be developed further also. Both of these issues may be affected by the pending widening of the village road so extra thought should be given to new opportunities in the area. This aspect of the competition is important not just for the competition sake but for creating an environment for the people of the village where good appreciation of the natural environment may be enjoyed. Involvement with the school will help in this type of work and it would be wise to consult the tidy towns handbook.

#### **Litter Control:**

There is reasonably good litter control in the village; some litter was noted around the car parking areas in the village centre. Your work as described in the entry form seems very good in promoting a litter free environment. The bottle bank was neat and tidy on the day and not abused. The participation in the national cleanup was a very positive action.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bottle banks are a useful start to the idea of recycling – there are many other items that need recycling or reduction of some sort. Having the EHO to visit the local school is a good idea- this is a subject that needs to be taken on board by all members of the community. 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:**

Kerbside weed control and grass weeds at the church car park and GAA areas all need attention. The poor presentation of some buildings is not helpful in the aspect of tidiness. Iron corrugated shed and roofs look very untidy unless they are well painted and there is one of these in the village centre. The shop beside the telephone kiosk is very dilapidated looking. The development of the housing estates is also taking its toll on the village tidiness at the moment.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas are reasonably well tended. The estate by the Church looks well and the roadside houses along the approach roads and at the village centre are well maintained. The huge building estate developments will change the context of the village very much and the committee should keep a watchful eye to ensure that these estates are finished off well with proper landscaping and services before the developers leave the sites. Also lobbying will be needed with the council to ensure these sites are serviced well and that proper footpaths and facilities are organised. A residents committee should be encouraged to do this work,

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

The road surfaces leave much to be desired. In places the surfaces are patchy and bumpy and the car parking areas by the Tulsk Inn are deplorable. The new road widening schemes. The sewerage works and the building developments will all take their toll on the condition of the roads and hopefully when all these works are complete an excellent road surface will be out in place. The underground cabling is a great success and the street lamps look very well. Traffic appears to travel fast through the village and traffic calming measures may need to be put in place.

#### **General Impression:**

Tulsk is facing a period of turmoil with all the impending works and the new housing developments. It is important to keep focused during this period and to avoid neglecting every thing in waiting for all works to be done – continued efforts are needed in the short term and when all works are completed a plan of action should be ready to swing into place to give the necessary improvements

