

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tulla** Ref: **521**
County: **Clare** Mark: **211**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and the attached sketch map of the Village which made it easier for the adjudicator to identify key areas.

May I say welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition after some years absence.

The Committee of 3 is rather small for what is a fairly large rural town.

I suggest that you supplement that number by inviting some representatives on board from other local organisations.

Also as you are new to Tidy Towns do try and put together a basic work plan for next 3 years as this gives you objectives to work to

Good to note that you have formed links with Local Authority and fostered good will within the local community.

Good luck with your fund raising and awareness campaigns.

The Built Environment:

The Town is in the process of a number of infratructural changes and it does not help that the road surfaces within the main town area is very poor.

This looks like that it will not be addressed until the promised up graded sewage scheme is put in place, although the application form suggest otherwise and it will be done in early July.

It was brought to this adjudicator's notice that over 300 new houses are in the pipeline for Tulla in the immediate to long term. How the present services will cope is another concern.

It is up to the Committee to be aware of all these issues and try to work around them if needs be.

Tulla is a fine Market Town and has a number of impressive buildings that are part of its history.

Some have been tastefully restored, others have stayed in a time warp and a few have been left to

dereliction. The owners of the following are to be commended for the standard of presentation. O Hallorans Service Station it has a very tidy forecourt area, Tulla Pharmacy (Norma Tobin) Flappers Restaurant, Post Office, The Power House and the very impressively restored Eamonn Dorans. The Church and both Schools were well maintained also. The Committee should encourage all residents to maintain properties to an acceptable standard.

Landscaping:

Some committee member was actually planting flowers at the stone bed near the Courthouse on adjudication day. Some nice individual beds especially one in front of the impressive stone house at the Limerick/Ennis/Kiltanon House Signpost. There were number excellently maintained private gardens to be seen also and credit to the owners for making the effort. Overall the Committee, which is new to the Tidy Towns culture, needs to devise a planting programme as part of an overall work plan for the future. Seek out advice from the Horticultural Section of Clare County Council.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The fact that you as a Committee are engaging with the National School to try and develop a specific wildlife project near the School is very worthwhile. Children will embrace this idea with abandon and will gain much learning from such an exercise.

Litter Control:

Litter control was acceptable considering it was the Monday after a weekend and large pockets of cigarette butts were seen outside a few pubs. The committee needs to accentuate the message of good litter control by way of the various town media, Parish newsletter, Schools and meetings with other organisations.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category that could offer any community the opportunity to gain points in the competition and also involve themselves in the promotion of best practice. I would advise you as a committee to examine the supplied RAW publication and see what other similar size towns and villages have done in terms of specific projects. This of course should be part of an overall work plan alluded earlier in the report.

Tidiness:

The main area of the town was a bit untidy because of ongoing infrastructural work taking place and its neigh impossible to keep residue of dust etc from forming. There were a number of well-established business premises that could put a better effort into keeping yards and frontages in better condition. Congratulations to those that have taken it upon themselves to ensure that all immediate areas near their properties are kept free of weed growth and other residue.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was very good. The newer housing developments such as Powerscourt and at the impressive Forge Sculpture, on the connecting road on to the main Scariff Ennis Road, were quite impressive. Green areas and trees planted will mature in time and there is easy access to the town. The Older cottages at the junction of New Line and Ennis Limerick Road were very well presented as was the main housing estates 1 and 2, as they are locally known, in the town proper. Credit to the residents here who have made very positive improvements to the communal area adjacent to the estate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard varied, the approach roads from Limerick Ennis were in very presentable state hedgerows trimmed with wildlife conservation in mind.
The Scariff Feakle Road had a poor road surface and a few very untidy abandoned frontages.
The rather large and established business owners on this road could do more to keep the busy premises in a tidier condition. Whether you as a Committee can influence this is another's day's work.

General Impression:

Good to have Tulla back in the competition and it is always pleasant to visit the capital of this part of East Clare.
The Committee is small but hugely active and change will take time.
There are many positives and unfortunately a number of obvious negatives, but a start has been made and the Town no doubt will progress in the competition in the years ahead.