

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grangeford** Ref: **1438**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **187**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	187

Overall Development Approach:

Grangeford was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Being a rural area the built environment of Grangeford consists of houses, walls, a bridge and a plant. Bar the latter all are beautifully presented. The houses are quaint cottages, modern bungalows and farmhouses. All are well maintained and many full of summer colour. There is no sign of a Church, school, community centre.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is at the discretion of the householder. Many of the home owners extend their gardening influence right onto the road giving a cared for look to the area. As a result of road widening there are a few wide, well maintained grass expanses. These could be enhanced with flower tubs to introduce more colour to the many shades of green.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As we are in the heart of the country wildlife must abound in the hedges, walls, trees and fields of corn. Translating this abundance into a wildlife nature trail is another challenge.

Litter Control:

Despite not meeting any pedestrians there is an inordinate amount of litter on the main road. What a pity. Maybe motorists could be made aware of the beauty that surrounds them and be exhorted to bring their litter home. Some dumping was also spotted.

Waste Minimisation:

In order to make further progress in this section it may help to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. This booklet may help you to focus on projects that would be suitable for you. It would also help differentiate between waste management and waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

The efforts of the residents bring a tidy aspect to this piece of busy road. There are very few weeds in front of houses. Residents are too proud to allow this. A sign for the Aghalona river is concealed by the hedge.

Residential Areas:

There is no estate. The building boom is not evident either. Traditional cottages, farmhouses and some modern bungalows represent the residential sector. All have a proud, well maintained and colourful appearance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Grangeford is not defined with signs or speed limits. Were it not for the helpful postman the sat nav would never have defined Grangeford for the adjudicator. If there is a community identity it might be helpful to have Carlow County Council install village name signs. The only back road of note is the one by the concrete plant. There appears to be a disused quarry here also. Needs camouflaging.

General Impression:

Grangeford is a busy patch. Does it merit a special speed limit? The house fronts suggest pride of place.