

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Loch Gowna** Ref: **55**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had visited Loch Gowna and the level of development that has taken place in the meantime is quite astonishing! It's almost hard to believe it's the same village - but it is! Therefore, as suggested by last year's adjudicator (and that of the previous year) it is essential to formulate a work programme in order to have a level of control over this situation. It need only be a few pages long, highlighting your objectives and setting a timeframe against their achievement. The new footpath from the Catholic Church to the Hall was noted and admired.

### **The Built Environment:**

The many shops and businesses of the village generally looked well cared for. X L Stop and Shop was fresh, as was Fitzpatrick's Tavern, La Boutri Bistro, and the Piker's Lodge. O'Reilly's Gala Garage was quite fresh. The Post Office, in its prominent location at the crossroads looked well. The Catholic Church and grounds were well presented, as was the nearby National School. The St Bridget's Community Hall was good but the adjacent old National School would benefit from a repaint. The charming Church of Ireland looked marvellous in its lakeside setting.

### **Landscaping:**

The picnic area by Swan Lake has been maintained to the highest of standards since the adjudicator last visited many years ago. The associated lakeside walk will indeed provide a pleasant area for resident and visitor alike. The gravelled pathways and new gates were admired. The picnic area on the Longford road was admired, but the nearby village pump needed repainting - it could perhaps be incorporated into the landscaping in this location. The stone beds with roses opposite the Church of Ireland were admired. The Fair Green and playground area looked well, but the associated Hand Ball Alley needed a fresh coat of paint, particularly the wall facing towards Cavan. Lovely floral displays were noted to a little area beside the Post

Office.

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

You are in a fortunate position, given the magnificent lakeside setting you have. As suggested by last year's adjudicator, you should draw up a wildlife survey in order to put together a management plan. This could be done by the local schoolchildren with the help of local experts. Nearby Killeshandra have forged links with Birdwatch Ireland and have organised such events as a Dawn Chorus one and a Midnight Bat Walk. You could contact them in order to see how they managed to organise them. Have you considered a wildlife information board at your lakeside walk and Bird Sanctuary at Swan Lake?

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better, as even one or two items of litter can create a bad impression in a village of Loch Gowna's size. There was quite a lot of litter in evidence along the Cavan Road and a single bottle was noted at the Catholic Church. There was much in evidence to the car park area on the Longford Road. More litter was evident on the roadside outside.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category of the competition relates to issues of waste management. Do you recycle the litter that you pick up in your work? Do you compost the green waste created by your landscaping projects? Is the school involved in the Green Flag Programme? It is also about how you inform the local community about such matters and how they can do their bit - schools, businesses and residents. You should contact your local Environmental Officer in Cavan County Council in this regard.

### **Tidiness:**

The village had a generally neat and ordered appearance, despite the level of construction work taking place. There are some attractive vernacular outbuildings covered in Virginia Creeper on the bend leading to Swan Lake and these should have their tin roofs repainted in their traditional red colour. Weeds were evident here. The boundary wall to a car park area on the Longford Road needed repainting.

### **Residential Areas:**

The existing stock of houses was well maintained for the most part. It is to be hoped that new developments are completed to a high standard using materials that are suitable to their setting in this lovely Irish village. It is also to be hoped that entrance areas and landscaped spaces are well designed and you will need to keep the pressure on developers in order to ensure this is the case. A stone entrance area was under construction to a house on the Cavan Road. An attractive double gabled house with lovely garden faced onto Church Lake. The attractive row of houses with interesting plasterwork on the Granard Road were admired. The Village House was quite fresh. The charming house at Swan Lake was admired for its clematis around the front door. A lovely garden was noted to what the adjudicator presumed was the Parochial House.

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

Approach roads were generally reasonably well presented. The grassy ditches and banks on the Cavan Road were roughly cut. Although banks on the Longford Road had been cut, the dead grass had yet to be removed. Ferns were admired in the ditches, however. Weeds were noted to kerbsides along this road. New trees were noted behind a stone wall on the Granard Road. The village nameplate on this side of the village needed repainting.

### **General Impression:**

Loch Gowna is an attractive village set in a marvellous lake-side location. Do ensure that it maintains its unique character in the face of ongoing development!