

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grenagh** Ref: **134**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Grenagh Town projects a most pleasing, warm atmosphere. Clearly the village is being transformed with the extent of new building taking place. Well done on the very pleasant welcoming signs on the outskirts. Planning permission for up to 200 new houses is clearly having a major impact on the overall shape and make of the area. Please ensure that facilities, particularly Schools and other public services and buildings expand to meet the likely increased demand in the year's ahead. The small scale, black iron signs were very pleasant. The cemetery was presented in a manner which left some room for improvement. Thank you for the completed entry form, for the photographs which gave a good impression of the activities of your energetic committee, together with the Map and details of the floral and fauna of the area.

The Built Environment:

The White House with the windows and doorframe detailing in red was very effective. The wash 'n vac company looked very bright as did the Texaco Station nearby. Cost Cutting supermarket and off licence in the new retail 'terrace' of shops was most effective. While in Carraiglaoi some units remained for setting and no doubt these will find ready businesses shortly. The Post Office looked well and other concerns were equally well presented. The Sports Complex itself looked very well but the road to it was materially below par and needs urgent remedial action. The Catholic Church was well presented but the seat outside it was very much overgrown by encroaching hedgerow. The former Rathduff School (1861) now the Social Community Centre was recently painted and looked well, however the signs themselves need to be washed for best effect.

Landscaping:

The rocky featuring a good display of farm machinery of yesteryear was an attractive feature. There was

very good garden planting at the top of the Village making good use of loose, dry fill walls. The shrubs were well selected with a good variety planted to beyond the Community Centre. The presentation of the Town's history through time with the cream, yellow and blue setting was most attractive. The School grounds looked very well but do repaint the goal posts. The Tennis Courts looked much unloved because of the tennis nets in shreds. The flowing water at the village pump on the corner was a nice touch. The small Grotto at this point also caught the eye.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In a rural setting there are many opportunities to develop bird sanctuaries and a wildlife reserves. An interest in and an awareness of birdlife is a life enriching attribute and the Schools should be encouraged to explore the options. Remember a thriving birdlife depends initially on the availability of a suitable food chain. The planting of native, berry bearing shrubs and trees should be examined. The amenity walks available to you especially along the banks of the River Martin are important attributes and need to be highlighted by signposting.

Litter Control:

The Village is well equipped with litter bins. It is important however that litter bins have in position an appropriate regime of servicing. Otherwise as has happened here a number of them are overflowing. Please review the arrangements made for their servicing. The litter bin at the village pump corner was most attractive and there were plenty of litter bins by the seats at the top of the village. This is a good integrated approach. We commend your efforts with the shops and other businesses to take responsibility for litter in their immediate area.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bottle Bank and Bring Centre was very well presented and applause for the fine limestone directional signs. The problem of waste minimisation is a matter for all the Community and every effort should be made by disseminating information or indeed the staging of a seminar to discuss the matter, to encourage discussion and to facilitate solutions to reduce the extent of waste being carted to landfill sites. If all adopt a posture of waste reduction, reuse where feasible and recycling whenever possible then we will have collectively done a major job in the reduction of waste which is in everyone's interest.

Tidiness:

We note your ongoing difficulties and the efforts you are making to deal with the problem of the derelict house near the Church. Your efforts are wished success in the near future. The treatment of the abandoned house near the village pump is very successful as it has now become in effect the village notice board. The old Post Office is in a very sad state and one hopes that it will soon be brought back into gainful use. The Planning Permission notice gives hope in this direction.

Residential Areas:

The houses at Gleann Gara were very attractively built. Ios Na Ri is an established housing group which was well presented. A truly delightfully house at the top corner featured an excellent garden. Standards varied in Lachteen as the concrete pavement was broken in a number of places and this distracted from the overall impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Cemetery Road speed limit signs were freshly painted but one was hidden by the branches of trees. The road surface in various places was from poor to very much under par. The sign for the children's at play was very faded and does need to be replaced. The dry fill, stone walls on the Donnaughmore Road, topped with flowers looked most attractive.

General Impression:

Grenagh Village in an area seeped with deep seated history, is once again facing, material change to its make up and shape. Continue to work to encourage people to be involved and associated with the activities and life of the village. While it can be dispiriting to receive such a little response to your request for people to get involved it has been found that there is no substitute for "keeping on keeping on". Well done on your efforts this year please maintain your progress for the sake of this village which has so much to offer and project to visitor and residents alike.

