

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caltra** Ref: **191**
County: **Galway** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for filling out the application form and giving details of work done and future work planned. Your application does not mention a development plan, and we wonder has one been developed for the village?

The Built Environment:

The National School was well presented and it is always an adjudicators delight to witness the green flag – well done. The property at the village weighbridge is extremely well maintained and appealing to the village, the owners could be commended. In contrast, Donoughughs is in urgent need of painting. The Church is also very well presented.

Landscaping:

Flower tubs and hanging baskets were strategically placed to great effect at various locations throughout the village. The planting and maintenance of the flowers at the Grotto area is good.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your application has left the wildlife and natural amenities section empty, therefore you have enormous potential to improve your marks in this area next year. For example, stone walls, hedgerows and grass areas offer opportunities to establish diverse habitats. To attract birds, consider erecting bird nesting boxes in appropriate locations, a feeding table may also encourage birds in the Green. Perhaps for next year the school children could also prepare a project in relation to the local wildlife that you could include with your application, this would also give them “hands-on” involvement with the Tidy Towns competition.

Litter Control:

No litter was evident during the adjudication and you do not seem to have a litter problem. Well done and keep this up.

Waste Minimisation:

You mention the continued usage of the bottle and can banks under this section in your application – keep the momentum up and increase your recycling rates. It may be helpful for you to consult the guidance document produced by the Department entitled “How to win the Race against Waste in your Community” to allow you to gain more marks in this section next year. The Waste Awareness Officer of Galway County Council may also be a good starting point. Consider engaging with the local schools and businesses. Other tidy towns committees have held a waste awareness day or given talks to the local schools on reducing their waste.

Tidiness:

We acknowledge the extensive grass cutting that is evident in the village. The telephone box is in need of painting. We recommend that you avoid excessive signage at the Emo Shop.

Residential Areas:

Good individual effort for many if not all of the residential properties was noted. Well done. Your application recognises the difficulty with private sites and houses, we urge you to continue to present any neglected buildings as best you can without causing problems. You may be interested to know that other villages tackle this problem by holding open community meetings, one-to-one meetings with property owners or sending a letter to each household requesting that problems such as dereliction be dealt with.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads to the village are in good condition and generally well maintained. Furthermore pathways and streets were of good standard.

General Impression:

Once again we urge you to formulate a development plan for the village to chart the way forward in the future and ensure you are moving in the right direction. For next year please bear in mind that the more information supplied with your application the easier it is for the adjudicators to award marks. You have raised your marks this year in a number of categories due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as a stimulus for further action and securing further involvement from the local community. Overall you should be pleased with your efforts – congratulations and best wishes for next year.