

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Leenane** Ref: **200**
County: **Galway** Mark: **203**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	203

Overall Development Approach:

Firstly, a warm welcome back to the competition after a year of absence and many thanks for filling out the application form and giving details of work done and future work planned. You communicate with your community via the Mass Newsletter and have arrangements in place to have this newsletter delivered to households not attending Mass. How about considering adding a notes section to your local newspaper, or placing a poster in Hamilton's food store or the Post Office. These actions may help target more residents? Your application does not mention a development plan, and we wonder has one been developed for the village?

The Built Environment:

The Leenane Hotel, the Sheep and Wool Centre/An Tobar Café, were well presented as was the Convert and Church. We were unsure of the location of the children's playground from the map, however we viewed what we thought was the children's play area, an enclosed tarmac area. We wonder if there are going to be play facilities installed, such as swings and slides? A number of excellent children's play parks have been developed in other villages in the County, Williamstown and Moylough are two very good examples. The project planned for the development of a beach and swimming area is an excellent idea and hopefully will be a first-class amenity for the village and tourists alike once completed. There is a dilapidated building across from the school, the Wool Stores.

Landscaping:

Trees framing the approach roads are attractive. Flower beds in the village were well tended and there were good window boxes and hanging baskets. We like the idea that you have included proposals for amenity areas, seating etc in the shore project mentioned above.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your application form states that nature is incorporated into the children's play area; we would have liked to see more details on this. Likewise we would welcome more information on the annual botany and wildlife tour with the local school children. Perhaps for next year the school children could prepare something that you could include with your application, this would also give them "hands-on" involvement with the Tidy Towns competition. The long-term plan to have a nature walk from the pier to the church is excellent. Well placed signage and planting will enhance the walk and encourage more usage. There were plenty of birds in the harbour and it was helpful to be able to use the "Birds of Killary Harbour" educational board to identify them. The other display boards in the car park were also well presented and very informative.

Litter Control:

It was heartening to see a number of signs with the inscription "Leenane is a beautiful village, keep it litter free". Two coach loads of tourists arrived during our visit to the village and with only one empty crisp packet seen in the car park across from An Tobar Café, this is no mean feat. These signs must be acting as a good reminder for tourists to dispose of their litter responsibly – well done.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste Minimisation is a new section of the competition that was introduced in 2006. 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, how about holding a waste awareness day or adopting the local Bring Bank? You mention in your application that recycling is encouraged through items in the Newsletter; we would like to see examples of this next year. The Bring Bank was noted to be in a clean and tidy state and it was good to see a person recycling glass at the bring banks during my visit this has therefore gained you some marks this year.

Tidiness:

The voluntary groups responsible for tidying the graveyard, church, school and the parochial house should be praised. It was good to witness cleaning on-going at Hamilton's Bar during our visit. A number of areas in the village would benefit from weeding, namely; the road the community centre is located, the lay-by across from the Emowcle B&B, and at the Failte sign. The bring bank was well maintained but would benefit with some screening; we suggest possibly a picket fence with planting at both sides of the banks. It is also thought that the gas bottles at the road towards the Community Centre are unsightly and could also be screened, possibly with a picket fence similar to the one directly across the road. We have to mention the plethora of signs at the main junction in the village, we counted eleven signs on two posts at the main village junction, and we wonder is there any need for all these signs? We also suggest that the dilapidated petrol sign is removed without delay as it is unprepossessing.

Residential Areas:

The traditional houses in the village are appealing to visitors and give Leenane its real character. Moss was noted on the roof of Sea and Mountain View B&B in the village. The thatch cottage up the road past the community centre was pleasant and well presented, well done to the residents. Most of the other residential houses on the outskirts of the village were also well presented on adjudication day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads around the village were quite rough but it was noted that work is underway on the sewage scheme and these works are presumed to be associated with this, therefore please note that no marks have been penalised for this. The footpath across the road from Hamilton's Bar near the Bridge is in need of surfacing and was very rough to walk on.

General Impression:

The Development Association is working hard to maintain the wonderful village of Leenane and we welcome your forward thinking with regards to the new proposals. We urge you to formulate a development plan (if one does not exist) to chart the way forward in the future and ensure you are moving in the right direction. For next year we would be grateful if you could please bear in mind that the more information supplied with your application the easier it is for the adjudicators to award marks. It is possible that you might be doing yourselves out of additional marks in some sections because of the paucity of information supplied. You have raised your marks this year due to your efforts and we hope that this will act as a stimulus for further action and securing involvement from the local school and community. Well done and best wishes for your future proposals.

