

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Spideal** Ref: **220**
County: **Galway** Mark: **257**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for your application form and the map you provided. It is good to see that you are utilising a number of mediums such as the church newsletter, church notices and the radio to get the message of Tidy Towns across to local residents and encouraging that you have dedicated members that give up their time to get the message across to the younger generation. We feel you now need a development plan that will chart the way forward for the village and ensure that future developments are in sympathy with the Gaeltacht ethos of the area.

The Built Environment:

The medical centre and pharmacy are well maintained. Both the Old Pier and the new Pier were clean and tidy. The plans under construction to connect the Old Pier with the new are excellent and upon completion should earn you further points in this area next year. The Craft and Design studios are in excellent condition and are a delight to wander around. Other commercial properties that we liked were An Cruisan Lan, Boluisce and Cisean Torthai. The Post Office and S. Mac Proinnseas Spar detracts from the Main Street with its over-enthusiastic signage and saleable goods on the footpath. The church enjoys a prominent position on the main street and does this location justice. As you rightly recognise the problem with dereliction is a difficult one to tackle and you are commended for continuing to present any neglected buildings as best you can without causing problems. We noticed a derelict building beside the S Man Proinnseas and the Clan na Mhara Hotel looks deserted and is getting somewhat dilapidated, may be for next year this will be improved.

Landscaping:

The landscaped area at the road junction to the new Pier was nice, however the footpaths in this area could be weeded. Tree planting has been undertaken around Spideal House. The lighting is also attractive and in-keeping with the character of the area. The public toilets looked well maintained from the outside with the

planted tubs and landscaped area; however they were fairly filthy inside, not a nice image for a visitor or tourist. We suggest that these need some attention. The proposals for a new landscaped area at the promenade are welcomed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The notice board at the new Pier contained some interesting information on the water quality and the Galway Bay SPA and also highlighted the National Lizard Survey of Ireland. This is a good resource and good be utilised to more advantage, we feel that visitors would be interested in local wildlife information. Consider erecting display boards with wildlife information along the promenade that will connect the two beach areas. Perhaps for next year the school children could also prepare something 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 seen anywhere in the village during the inspection, this is no mean feat given the volume of traffic moving through the village and number of tourists in the village on the inspection day. The Bring Banks were also well kept and litter free. Well done to all involved.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste minimisation was introduced into the competition in 2006. This section of your application form was left blank so unfortunately we can not allocate any points to you under this section. This is an area where you have enormous potential to increase your marks. 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. You state on the application form that you are already involved with the local schools and give presentations. May be for next year include the concepts of waste prevention and waste minimisation during your talks, or work together on a waste minimisation project. Consider also engaging with the businesses. The Waste Awareness Officer of Galway County Council may also be a good starting point.

Tidiness:

Some easily rectified problems include the presence of weeds at buildings on the Main Street, and the AIB Bank sign looking somewhat shabby and in need of a touch up of paint. The adjudicator felt that Keane's Farmyard and Garden Supplies could also be improved.

Residential Areas:

Major housing construction is underway on the approach roads from Moycullen and Connemara, this gives you the chance to get some new recruits on board! An Tulach Cleasach and Radharc na Run were visited and generally were well maintained. Also the one off housing on the various approach roads were well presented so well done to all for their individual effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were well surfaced, clean and the flower displays offer a nice welcome. Side and back areas were also noted to be well presented. The seating along the main street was well kept. Traffic was busy in the village on adjudication day.

General Impression:

A considerable amount of development is underway in the village, we therefore urge you to formulate a development plan. The plan will chart the way forward in the future and help to ensure Spideal does not lose its character and charm. Please bear in mind for the competition next year that the more information supplied with your application the easier it is for the adjudicators to award marks. This year you did yourself out of marks in the waste minimisation section due to the lack of information supplied. Certainly Spideal has enormous potential in the competition. It will be interesting to see how you have progressed by next year, and good wishes are offered in your admirable endeavours.