

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tynagh** Ref: **307**
County: **Galway** Mark: **200**
Category: **A** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	200

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for your application 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? We suggest you prepare a development plan (if one does not exist) in consultation with the villagers to chart the way forward in the future and ensure you are moving in the right direction.

The Built Environment:

Some commercial properties are well presented; Arthur Gordons and Harneys (although the sign could do with a touch up) stood out. The building erected by Lord Riverston across from the School is currently being re-developed. It is important that traditional features are maintained as this property is one of the first encountered on an approach road into the village. As you recognise the problem with dereliction is a challenging one to tackle but 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 dereliction be dealt with.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is appropriate at Connaught Timber. Window boxes and tubs were noted at various locations throughout the village adding colour to the village. You mentioned a picnic table opposite the church in your application but this was not seen on adjudication day. We liked the new traditional gates at the Fair Green. Some work was noted to be on-going in the Fair Green at the prospective seating area. Next year with continued effort the Fair Green should be looking extremely well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You state on your application that you don't know how to tackle work this category. We noticed some bird feeders in and around the village; however you have enormous potential to improve your marks in this area with the stone walls, hedgerows, and Fair Green offering opportunities to establish diverse habitats. To attract nesting birds, consider erecting bird nesting boxes in appropriate locations, a feeding table may also encourage birds in the Fair Green. Consult last years report regarding involving the local school children or commissioning consultants to carry out an ecology/biodiversity study in the area. 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.

Litter Control:

A number of bags of rubbish (or recyclables?) were present at the Brink Banks. These banks are appropriately located in a visual area on one of the main approach roads to the village. Littering at this facility can only be stopped with continued education and awareness and vigilance of local people in the area. We suggest you contact the Recycling Officer at Galway County Council to get support with this and to monitor the Banks in case they need emptied more frequently. Litter was not evident in other areas through out the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste Minimisation is a new section of the competition that was introduced in 2006. This is an area where you have enormous potential to increase your marks. You mention the new litter bins provided by local businesses but unfortunately this does not fall under the concepts of preventing and minimising waste. 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? May be for next year you could work with the local school on a waste minimisation project? The schools involvement would also contribute to the Green Flag project if your local school is a participant.

Tidiness:

Dereliction has already been mentioned. We are pleased that the under-grounding of some wire on the Loughrea approach road has taken place. The adjudicator felt that the garage beside Author Gordon's Pub is somewhat of an eyesore and could be improved.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties were well presented. As mentioned last year infill development within the village should be prioritised over ribbon development on the approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road works were ongoing on the approach road from Loughrea at the Sports Field, we noticed the wall at the Sports Field would benefit from painting. The footpath from village to the Cre na Cille housing estate is also currently under construction. The approach road from Portumna was well maintained.

General Impression:

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. The members of the Tynagh and District Development Association are working hard to maintain the village. We believe that with a sustained effort you can do well in all categories next year, however, particular focus is required in the waste minimisation category. Overall you should be pleased with your efforts – congratulations.