

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Jamestown** Ref: **431**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **187**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	19
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>187</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Jamestown to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and sympathises with the difficulties that you have had while the sewerage scheme has been underway. Hopefully these problems are now nearing the end. The photographs and correspondence that you included with your entry documentation were informative. The action list that you provided for items requiring attention from the sewerage programme is most comprehensive. When all those 'snag list' issues have been resolved it will make a big difference to village presentation. The adjudicator noted that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted for Jamestown with your entry documentation this year. All towns and villages are strongly recommended to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations and agencies in the Jamestown area. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that your committee and supporting organisations and agencies intend to carry out each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4 or 5 key projects are adequate. In November of each year your Tidy Towns Plan should then be advanced by a further year and the year coming to an end can then be dropped from the Plan. Evidently a Plan to 2008 was submitted last year. The IWN magazine was most interesting in regard to the great barge festival – what a gathering!

### **The Built Environment:**

The key feature of the built environment is the very fine five arch Limestone bridge over the River Shannon. The adjudicator has read with interest of your campaign to have the arch at the other end of Jamestown replaced and supports this concept. However this should only be replaced if an accurate reproduction of the original is possible. The entrance to the Glanbia plant was presented on adjudication day in a most disappointing manner despite your letter of 9th May 2007 to management. At the entrance area the footpath

needs to be repaired and long grass and weed growth removed. Some fencing repairs are required and the gates need to be repainted. The adjudicator recommends consideration of the development of a stone entrance area to this property that will echo the stone walls across the road and elsewhere in Jamestown. The old Lodge at the beautifully landscaped area is a continuing problem and this property has the potential to look really. The removal of the circular animal feeder from the gateway would be an improvement. The gates here also need to be painted. Some of the properties in the village centre were attractively painted and some of the older larger properties caught the eye in terms of overall presentation. Attractive grey Limestone walls are keynote characteristic of the village and should be preserved in any future village developments.

### **Landscaping:**

The small landscaped areas at the village signs are attractive and help to present the signage in an eye catching manner. Near the road bridge the small landscaped area at the lodge has matured very well and the grass areas and shrubs and flowers here are being maintained to a high standard. The Quay area is really attractive but the grass areas needed to be cut. Some weed growth at kerbing was also noted. The metal railings would be improved if painted in a bright colour.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is noted that apparently no new work was undertaken under this adjudication category for this year. What are your plans for 2008 in this regard? At The Quay the Ducks seem to be doing well.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control as distinct from tidiness is a strong feature of Jamestown and on adjudication day control was good and only occasional pieces of litter were noted. Has your Committee got a litter control policy? The CCTV is hopefully producing results for you. Your work on the lay-by at the N4 / Jamestown Road is noted and was a good decision. At the Bring Bank the official signage was missing but the landscaping carried out here helped to relieve the poor appearance of this side of the road.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is noted that no projects were carried out under this heading for this year and no indication was given as to whether the 2006 projects have continued on into this year. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee.

### **Tidiness:**

The barge that is / was for sale by the bridge would be improved if it could be painted by the owner assuming that it is to stay in Jamestown. Weed growth was noted at the base of stone walls in a number of areas and also at the base of the front wall of some houses. Have you considered having all your field gates painted in a coordinated colour scheme with the help of local land and property owners? Weeds and long grass in the vicinity of the tower and Post Box looked quite untidy. At the information panel near the arch the seat needs to be re-varnished. An untidy small field area behind this also needs attention. The area by the Bring Bank now being used as a storage area by the County Council looked extremely untidy and did nothing to support the great work of the Tidy Towns Committee. If this area is not going to be reinstated shortly by the County Council can they consider temporary screening?

### **Residential Areas:**

The letter to every householder though a copy was not enclosed is obviously a good idea as it no doubt reminded residents of the importance of the presentation of their own place. Private houses were in general quite well presented and recent painting caught the eye in various areas. Some grass areas at private residences needed to be cut.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Some rough verges were noted on the approach by the old Lodge and this is probably a legacy of the sewerage works. For example the area by the large NDP sign needs a lot of attention to restore it back to a green verge. On the approach down past Glanbia little recent work appears to have been done on verges and

banks. Some attractive new stone walls were however noted here. On the small laneway by the corrugated iron building a lot of grass and weed growth was present. On the road out to the N4 along by the Shannon (Tully) good verges were a pleasant feature complimented by the trees.

**General Impression:**

Hopefully by the time that Tidy Towns 2008 adjudication starts Jamestown will be back to normality following the completion and full reinstatement following the sewerage works. Good luck with you 2008 projects.