

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lurganboy** Ref: **434**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **216**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

In my view, the Tidy Towns Committee in the village of Lurganboy provides an excellent example of how to progress in the Tidy Towns Competition. This is illustrated by the work undertaken on the ground, through the co-operation with all of the relevant Councils, agencies and other funding organisations and by the preparation of a detailed plan of action. The five year plan submitted by the Tidy Towns Committee is one of the most impressive I have seen as it not only identifies and clearly details all of the actions required but clearly outlines time frames for each one. Notwithstanding this point, the number of committee members at 12 – 15 is a particularly impressive level of involvement and your work ethic is clear for all to see given the excellent improvements evident in the village since adjudication day last year. However, some additional improvements could be possible, particularly by increasing the contacts with the local schools in Manorhamilton and possibly by engaging more with local groups and businesses. The issues raised in the submission with regard to some of the local businesses and the quarry are noted, but their importance to the local economy should not be overlooked.

The Built Environment:

There are a number of notable features of the built environment that provide character to Lurganboy. Without doubt, the stone walls throughout the village are a very strong feature and it is encouraging to see from your proposals that additional stone walls are planned. It was further observed that construction is continuing with a small number of developments under construction. To date, it is considered that the location and design of new development has made a positive contribution to Lurganboy, but careful attention is needed to ensure that the design, materials and the boundary treatment for new development are appropriate to their context. Once again, the Committee should keep a watchful eye open to ensure that all works, but particularly entrances, road surfaces, pavements and landscaping / planting are completed prior to occupation and before the builders leave the site. The traditional style buildings in the centre are especially attractive and well

maintained and the colourful Church provides an interesting feature at the entrance to the village. It is a pity that the "Lodge" building remains in poor condition, but the small improvements undertaken to it are noted. The Committee are also encouraged to provide for bilingual signs and name plates.

Landscaping:

The landscaping work undertaken by the Committee is to be highly commended. The landscaping around the entrance stone from the N4 was noted. It is encouraging to see that the previous years adjudicators remarks were taken into account in your submission which states that additional trees were planted in the Church grounds, although these were not immediately evident upon inspection. The planting boxes in front of the dwellings adjacent to the Church were impressive whilst some of the front gardens here were spectacular. The seat at the junction of the Kinlough Road is also very attractive and well maintained, although the boundary fence in this location is in poor condition and appears quite unsightly. The landscaping at the picnic area was very impressive. The landscaping at the picnic area and entrance stone on the Killronee Road was excellent and this gives a very good impression of Lurganboy. However, it was noted that no parking can be provided at this location and no footpath currently exists from the village where parking is available. This could detract from the usefulness of the area to some extent. Some opportunities for additional planting were noted. In particular, the pleasant little picnic area on the link road to the N4 was a little overgrown with weeds and it would benefit from additional planting. Also, the raised bank at the junction of the Killronee Road appears to offer an excellent opportunity for planting and landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It has proved to be a very productive relationship between the Tidy Towns Committee and Coillte and both are to be complemented for their work in establishing woodland walks at Milltown, Cranny and Ballyglass. The information boards in the village pointing out the location of the wildlife walks are also an excellent addition. The proposal to involve school children in a wildlife survey is also very positive and this survey could possibly be used to educate and involve local children and provide information on the plant and animal life that can be seen on the walks.

Litter Control:

During the inspection, it was observed that a high standard has been achieved with respect to litter control. This is not surprising given the involvement of the Committee in the National Spring Clean and their organisation and undertaking of regular litter patrols. It is particularly encouraging to see that the Committee have identified the black spots (such as Milltown) and have responded accordingly. The picnic area at Milltown was inspected at the time of adjudication and no litter was evident. Keep up the good work!

Waste Minimisation:

This is an area where improvements are possible for Lurganboy. The distribution of leaflets and composters is a positive move, but more can be achieved and additional actions could be included in this category in the action plan. It is recommended that the Committee investigate consider the provision of a bottle bank in Lurganboy to encourage those who do not have access to a car to engage in recycling. The Committee should be encouraged to investigate the provision of a composting area or mulching machine for their own use in their ongoing landscaping projects.

Tidiness:

Lurganboy has achieved a high standard with respect to tidiness. The extensive work undertaken by the Committee (and the Fas Community Employment Scheme) in removing weeds from the road and kerbside was observed and congratulations are in order. The efforts with respect to maintaining signage and removing broken signs were noted. The new boundary fence to the Church was being put up at the time of inspection and it will be nice to see it completed for next years competition. The actions with respect to the open sites on the Milltown Road and the industrial premises in the village are also noted. The continuing construction in Lurganboy was observed but overall, building sites were generally considered to be tidy. Aside from the above comments, the adjudicator observed that pumping station would benefit from painting and the picnic area on the link road to the N4 needs to be weeded. In some instances also, it was observed that the road verges ended before the footpath and the grass edge and this can lead to an untidy appearance if not adequately maintained.

Residential Areas:

Generally speaking, it is considered that the residential areas are a great credit to their owners and congratulations are in order to all concerned. The boundary treatment to some properties in the village is a little inconsistent and it is pleasing to hear that proposals are in place to remove some of these unsympathetic treatments and replace them with nature stone walls. It is recommended that the Tidy Towns Committee contact the County Council and request that boundary treatments for new properties are

consistent with existing properties and faced with (preferably local) stone walls. In addition, the previous years adjudicators comments with respect to maintaining existing trees / hedgerows on development site is considered to be appropriate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Lurganboy are generally very impressive. The entrance road from the N4 is quite attractive with a carefully maintained entrance stone and planting visible and all verges seem carefully maintained. This is also the case with the Kilronev road, where the picnic area, entrance stone and landscaping provide for a good impression. The boundary treatments at the entrances to the walks are consistent and attractive and it is considered that the wooden fencing in this context provides for an appropriate substitute for natural stone. The extensive work undertaken on and in the vicinity of the bridge is a great credit to all concerned.

General Impression:

Excellent progress continues to be made by Lurganboy. Clearly, the significant improvement in the village is the result of a planned approach, co-operation with the County Council as well as government and other agencies and a lot of hard work. It is a credit to the Committee that it is possible for you to continue to perform strongly with respect to issues such as litter control and landscaping whilst making great progress in other categories such as wildlife and amenity areas and waste minimisation. Keep up the good work.