

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Readypenny** Ref: **1389**
County: **Louth** Mark: **190**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	190

Overall Development Approach:

Readypenny was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Readypenny is a scattered settlement of houses located on either side of the main road, and as such may not as yet constitute a collective unit usually entered into the TidyTowns competition, although this is a largely a matter for the residents who may wish to use participation as a means of creating a better sense of unity in a developing area, an objective shared by TidyTowns and one it is committed to assisting. Unlike a lot of townlands, Readypenny is clearly identifiable by the Readypenny Inn - a pub and popular live music venue - which is beautifully presented with flowerpots at the entrance to add colour. An old farm house to the south of the Inn is of heritage value.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is mainly rural in nature and this means hedgerows and trees. Hedgerows in particular perform a vital landscape function in giving texture and depth to the countryside. Unfortunately, the hedgrow across from the Readypenny Inn has been removed and this diminishes the rural landscape a great deal. This should be

replanted with a selection of native species, such as hawthorn, ash, crab apple or elder. The pub owner might also consider further landscaping the car park with some shrubbery to soften its aspect and make the premises even more attractive to the passing traveller.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In a rural context such as this, the hedgerows of the surrounding countryside provide a rich habitat for wildlife. It is vital therefore, to maintain this resource by replanting hedges where gaps have appeared. In addition, they should only be cut during winter (October - February) as this does not disturb nesting birds.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen on the day of adjudication. This was impressive as even small areas can suffer from litter being thrown by passing traffic. Without background information, it was not possible to ascertain the extent of community involvement and further marks could be gained here if litter patrols are in operation.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem and many useful tips are contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

Being rural, the area is uncluttered and very tidy indeed. However thoughtful landscaping would add a lot and make the area even more identifiable.

Residential Areas:

There are one or two houses along the road these were very well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Side roads off the main road are rural in nature and are small but well maintained. Some tasteful welcome signs would help give the town additional character.

General Impression:

Overall Readypenny is a very attractive rural location. Improving the landscaping of the limited available areas such as roadsides and the car park of the pub, would do much to further improve its impression to the traveller. The best of luck to everyone for the future.