

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubber** Ref: **285**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **254**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>254</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent entry with photos and maps included. Tubber is a very charming rural village with strong sense of community spirit. Activities are well planned and organised with good partnerships between local businesses and agencies. The village has been involved in the competition since 1979 and with this level of commitment and participation will continue to do well

### The Built Environment:

Tubber is a small village with key buildings being the school, church and parish hall. There is the one shop/pub Cat and Bagpipes which is really well maintained giving a friendly feeling to the village. The school building is a key building in the village and looks immaculate with its bright white and blue paint and all surrounds are totally litter free. The focal point of the centre is the church and parish hall. Both church and parish hall looking fine. Stone wall with wooden gate very attractive. New historical sign showing historical places in the localities is interesting. The new houses with temporary railings will look better when finished with proper borders after construction work is finished. In general all private residences are acceptable with some outstanding for the pride taken in appearances. Traditional materials are used throughout with stone walls. Welcome signs are bilingual

### Landscaping:

The fencing is very good at Jean Stones house, which was a project since last years adjudication involving removal of chicken wire and replaced with treated dark wood. It is in keeping with the fencing opposite and suits the area. The planting under esb pole looks great, and under signs and overall there are very high standards, and good to see the comments of last yrs adjudicator were taken on board

The trees on green area seclude houses from main road nicely

The parklands is excellent for its landscaping. It used to be a waste area and what now is the walkway, used to be the main road. This is where the water feature is planned for, in the corner, and that will make an even more attractive entrance to the village

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

Schools fairly new and lots space in front of building for planting, look forward to seeing what they come up with there – perhaps incorporating some kind of wildlife amenity. Back wall of yard may be painted There are plans to develop wildlife area at the school, including bird boxes and this is a good way to win marks in this category. Continue to give attention to planting that encourages insects and bears berries, nuts and seeds to support wildlife. Is the school a green-school? Parklands has some wildlife features incorporated

### **Litter Control:**

Recycling centre is totally litter free, really clean, lots good signs up, especially in Irish. Cctv is very good at the recycling bins obviously to deter the dumping and the council workers there said this a very good village, people always accommodate them, anything that needs to be done and they take great pride in the place and pity there weren't more like it

Litter bins obviously emptied frequently, water pump a lovely feature

There's plenty of planting around here, sufficient barrels and also trees there for height. The car parking area is also totally litter free, not a scrap.

Talks to be arranged with the community on litter will help keep up the good efforts in this category

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Litter picks are segregated and mower has facility for mulching. The recycling centre is kept well with 2 large planters. There could be info provided for community in talks on waste prevention regarding household waste reducing packaging, reusing items and so on. Is the school a green-school? Reuse of packaging for art has many uses and there are many ideas in the Race Against Waste guide.

### **Tidiness:**

Tubber is gorgeous from all approaches – beautiful entrance signs which look like wells and planting and rockeries all around. Loads of houses really well kept. Generally the sense of community spirit is evident, you can see everyone gets involved, and does their bit

Just at one of the cemeteries, one of the spots highlighted in the application that needed to be checked out and yes indeed the walls could do with being power washed but it makes total sense to wait until the flyover works are completed because they are undoubtedly causing a lot of dust and grime in the area. And may as well wait until these are finished

The cemetery was in pretty good shape when inspected it, there were full litter bins but this was mostly cemetery waste, except for one bin, on left hand side, inside the wall, which had clearly been illegally dumped household refuse in large black plastic bags. Clearly not cemetery waste. So perhaps the location of this bin should be changed to make it less accessible for people to just throw their bin bags over the wall but maybe this is something the committee is well aware of and if there's no bin there, the bags go on the ground outside the wall, so perhaps this has been considered

The management efforts of the committee are evident with the strictly no dumping signs at the key point on the perimeter of the cemetery and it wasn't too bad when I was there so well done and good luck with the efforts to tidy up the outside of the cemetery once the roadworks are done

On road towards cemetery the new footpaths are noted – opposite the rose garden, neat and tidy there. And the new footpaths and lighting at housing area on tully road

### **Residential Areas:**

Tubber is a small village where residential areas comprise the centre and immediate surrounds. All private

residences are well presented and there is involvement from all sides in keeping their area looking well. Fencing and signage is all maintained to high standard, as are many beautiful private gardens.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces seem fine with some work in progress continuing opposite the school, perhaps upgrading footpath there. Approaches are all very attractive with clean, tidy verges, and entrances to this village on all sides had unique signs in planters shaped like wells. There are not many back areas as it is a small village but what was seen was of high standard

No opportunity for landscaping is missed with some excellent picnic and seating areas provided on the main road

**General Impression:**

Tubber is overall a very pleasant, attractive village which despite its location off a busy main road has retained a tranquility and sense of strong community spirit and pride.