

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banada Tourlestrane** Ref: **539**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **207**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	21
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

Banada Development Agency, in conjunction with close neighbour Tourlestrane, is welcome to the 2007 competition! It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting these lovely villages and was pleased to note that the enthusiasm witnessed a number of years ago continues unabated! It was mentioned by last year's adjudicator that you should formulate a work programme in order to consolidate the ideas so clearly defined in your application form. You would appear to have a good level of support in the community, which is a marvellous help to you in your work. Congratulations on your victory in the Pride of Place Competition! The Country Market seems like an interesting idea and one well worth pursuing. Many thanks for your map, which was most useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

The Church at Tourlestrade should be painted up before next year's competition, as it appeared quite stained to its gable and side walls - some of this being caused by a hanging gutter. The planting outside with its mix of hedging and flowers as a backdrop to the millwheel and church bell structure, is simple but effective. The School and Community Centre were both neat and well presented, as was the Border Collie pub and associated Stop'n'Shop. The new Banada Primary Care Centre was admired in stone. The Health Centre in Banada was quite fresh, as was Arus an hAbhainn. The planting of sweet-william in this location was charming. Scaffolding was noted to the front of Mullarkey's but it appeared quite fresh despite this. The tin roof of an outbuilding between the villages needed painting in its traditional red colour.

Landscaping:

This is an area you obviously enjoy immensely. The John Hume Peace Garden was as well maintained as ever and the waterside Ancient Ireland Theme Park will hopefully mature as successfully. Ash trees had been planted opposite, and looked to be in good condition. Attractive pots were noted at the bridge. The graveyard

at Banada looked marvellous with its altar area, well maintained landscaping and ruined Corpus Christi Priory. The plaque to the Sisters of Charity was noted and admired. A planted bank between the two villages had yet to come into its own, and will look marvellous when it does.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of wild geese and ducks to the riverside area is commendable. The Green Fingers Club and Pumpkin Growing Contest are good initiatives to involve the local children. Have you considered drawing up a wildlife plan? Proposals for the Forest Walk are looked forward to. The planting of sorbus in order to provide bird feeding in the wintertime is commendable. Signs for identifying wild plants, flowers and grasses in the forest are also looked forward to.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good with little being in evidence apart from the very odd paper along the roadsides between the two villages. Do ensure that bins are emptied regularly. That at the Church in Tourlestrane was quite full on the day. Papers were evident outside the GAA grounds. The Peace Park sported some litter - the bin outside was quite full and it was wondered whether this was part of the problem and if a more frequent collection was necessary?

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area at the Corpus Christi houses was neat and well presented on the day. We were pleased to note that you had made this area as attractive as possible. This aspect of the competition is also about how you approach waste management issues and how you communicate the available options in this regard, to the community in general. We noted from last year's report that you also have a composting area at the Corpus Christi houses, that you have a "can campaign" currently running both of which are commendable.

Tidiness:

The villages have a very neat and ordered appearance. The only problem area appears to be at the handball alley at the bridge, which looks most unfortunate. We note from your documentation that you will be addressing this in the near future. A rough site for sale opposite the Health Centre created a bad impression. Some weeds were noted to kerbs opposite the John Hume Peace Park and to the base of the GAA boundary wall. A few more were noted in this vicinity - some had been sprayed and were dead but had not been removed. The wall needed painting. Building materials were also noted here and it is to be hoped that these will be removed once work is complete. There are a couple of derelict properties which create a bad impression.

Residential Areas:

Houses along roadsides were generally well maintained. The Corpus Christi houses were greatly admired with their well maintained entrance area. An attractive house near Arus an hAbhainn was admired. Window boxes to a stone house near the Community Centre looked well. A two storey house opposite the Stop'n'Shop should be painted before next year's competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadsides were generally well presented with well cut verges and banks - on each side of the villages and to the area between them. Ferns were noted at roadsides. Do ensure that cut dead grass is removed as otherwise it can look very untidy. The Tourlestrane sign on the Banada side was grubby and needed a wash-down.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit the twin villages of Banada and Tourlestrane after a number of years, especially given the high standards that are continuing to be achieved!