

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Culfadda** Ref: **1408**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **182**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	182

Overall Development Approach:

Culfadda is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Your village enjoys a beautiful rural setting and appears to be growing quite fast given the number of new residential developments. Hopefully the village will be able to assimilate this growth and at the same time retain its rural ambience. It is important that you work to a planned work programme covering a time period of approximately three years to guide your progress through the Tidy Towns Competition. It is equally as important that you submit this plan together with a rural place map indicating your achievements for any given year with each application. We wish you every success in future years.

The Built Environment:

Your school is an attractive element of the village with its handsome stone wall and beautifully landscaped grounds and the church looks really well also in this respect. The old farm buildings located near the church are well white washed and are an attractive feature of Culfadda. Higgans pub and shop are quite nicely presented, some thought might be given to re-lining its car park. The Foodstore sign should be replaced with more attractive signage as the existing one is a bit dated, the stickers should be removed from the window.

Landscaping:

Flower displays in a variety of containers including hanging baskets were admired around Culfadda and the hanging baskets to the house located across from the church looked particularly well. Landscaping along the perimeter of Higgans car park looked quite well and those in boxes on the wall across from Higgans were an attractive feature also. In future landscaping plans place a greater emphasis on permanent planting rather than an over reliance on flower displays and try to ensure that native species are used as these are more supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to the school children of St. Mary's National School for their Green Flag status, this is a fine achievement. A wildlife survey should be undertaken for Culfadda and the surrounding countryside to identify wildlife habitats and to possibly protect these in the event of new developments, the survey might involve the local school children. Stands of wild flowers were noted in verges which are attractive and these could also be encouraged.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Culfadda on the day of adjudication, well done. No litter was observed by the adjudicator. If you engage in litter management activities such as participation in the National Spring Clean and regular litter patrols and rotas submits these details with next year's application as this can earn additional marks for you. All collected litter should be segregated for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the students of St. Mary's National School again for their involvement in waste minimisation under the Green Flag programme. The committee might like to consider orchestrating a community compost initiative and at a later stage perhaps undertaking a waste audit to determine how much waste is produced by Culfadda and explore ways of reducing it.

Tidiness:

Your main problem under this heading is weedy roadside edges and curbs together with boundary walls, weed growth should not be allowed to be prolific in such places. The site with the old/derelect vehicles located beyond the church and between it and the school is also problematic under this heading, you should try for greater roadside enclosure here.

Residential Areas:

Mature gardens were colourful and well maintained at the time adjudication. Work in progress was noted on new housing developments and new estates are being nicely landscaped (Woodbrook). Landscaping might be considered for the Cloonshanbally development and the green areas marking its entrance could be maintained to a higher standard. The small estate of single storey dwellings feature nice gardens and work in progress was noted to a new single storey dwelling located beyond the school.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Name plates and other road signs were in good condition on inspection date but roadside verges were overgrown, it is important to maintain these neatly trimmed during the growing season. The road surface was good overall, however some edges were a little rough. The footpath near the church was clear of weed growth and the road surface here was quite good. The area at the name plate at the northern entrance to the village needs to be tidied up a bit. Stone wall enclosed fields are an attractive feature.

General Impression:

Culfadda is an attractive village with amenity potential which hopefully will be developed over the next few years whilst at the same time retaining its rural ambience.