

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gorteen** Ref: **1162**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **173**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	173

Overall Development Approach:

Gorteen is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. You have an attractive village in a pleasant rural setting and you are located on a national primary route. Your community is growing fast judging by the number of new residential developments. We acknowledge your musical heritage and your Ceol Aras building on the crossroads which is an attractive development. It is important to prepare a planned work programme covering a period of three years identifying what you hope to achieve, this should be submitted with your application each year and accompanied by a rural place map identifying work that has been accomplished in any given year.

The Built Environment:

The Green Isle premises was admired for the standard of presentation of its grounds which were most attractive. The Connaught Gold development was admired also in respect of its tidy yards and it was good to note that the Centra premises was well painted. As noted above the Ceol Aras building is a handsome development and has been considered for an award. O' Kane's Hill Hotel enjoys an excellent presentation and the church located behind the two pubs off the main street is charming. Encourage the proprietor of Rathmadder Inn and the Foodstore to replace the dated plastic signage here. Finally the school and its grounds looked well.

Landscaping:

A number of stretches of grass verges both in the village and on approach roads were overgrown and the landscaping across from the Connaught Gold premises was spoiled by long grass; the landscaped area to the latter premises was also spoiled by excessive weed growth. Landscaping is a useful way for masking eyesores and for giving greater enclosure to yards and undeveloped sites however the type of landscaping

should be native to the area and should be chosen carefully for seasonal interest.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As your village is growing so fast it is important to establish the wildlife habitats of Gorteen in order to promote awareness and to protect wildlife from the threat of development. With this in mind a wildlife survey might be undertaken perhaps with the aid of the local school and also benefiting from the expertise of the wildlife heritage officer in the county council to guide your activities in this regard.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication with a few minor exceptions one of these being on the Ballaghderreen Road on which empty cigarette packets were noted. A litter bin located outside of the butchers premises was overflowing and dirty and in need of refurbishment. If you engage in other litter control activities such as participation in the National Spring Clean or regular litter patrols during the summer, submit this information as this can attract additional marks.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the location of the bottle banks in the Centra car park which was well surfaced. The edges of the recycling point however should be maintained weed free. You might also consider other waste minimisation activities such as community composting and at some stage undertake a community waste audit with a view to minimising the overall amount of waste produced in Gorteen.

Tidiness:

You have scored least well under this heading as there are a lot of undeveloped, untidy sites in Gorteen. Weedy footpaths and curbs are also present. The ESB sub-station has very poor enclosure to its roadside edge and is quite an eyesore on the streetscape. Some commercial yards on the main street are untidy and are in need of greater enclosure.

Residential Areas:

Residential developments were admired in respect of their boundary treatment much of which was hedgerows or stone walls and gardens are nicely presented also. It appears that there will be a lot more housing development within Gorteen, hopefully new residents will become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative, and they should be encouraged to take the responsibility for their own areas in respect of general maintenance and also landscaping. The scorched grass which marked the entrance to Rathmadder estate was quite unsightly but the name stone here was admired. We look forward to the completion of a number of developments which are a work in progress.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A lot of verges along approach roads were overgrown to the extent that some name plates were partially hidden however welcome signs and name stones were quite visible. Road surfaces are good overall. The overhead wirescape and service poles on the entrance from the Boyle Road is somewhat untidy however the wirescape free aspect in the village centre at the crossroads with your newer lamp standards is acknowledged, well done.

General Impression:

Gorteen can be described as a village that is a work in progress and the committee should do their best to maintain a tidy appearance while work is being undertaken, we wish you well in the future.