

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange** Ref: **750**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **235**
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	235

Overall Development Approach:

Grange Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2007 competition. Your Five Year Plan is now in its second year and seems to be making steady progress. You have set it out in a logical way - year by year under each heading of the competition. You have a large committee for the village's size, which is to your advantage. You would appear to have a good working relationship with local residents groups, the National School, the Vocational School and a local developer. The provision of a liaison officer with the school is a good idea. Plans for stone wall building is commendable as these are quite suitable for tying in with the existing fabric of the village. The map you supplied would have been more useful on adjudication day if it clearly labelled roads, buildings and ongoing projects within the village!

The Built Environment:

The commercial premises of the village were generally well presented on the day. Of note were John Lang's, Centra, the Post Office and J. Water's. Some Christmas lights were spotted to a gable which looked a little unseasonal. The Church was looking somewhat faded and could do with a new coat of paint before next year. The rear boundary wall was in a bad condition. The adjoining building - the Community Centre? - was looking very patchy, unfortunately. The two schools were admired and well presented, although the boundary wall of the National School was in need of a fresh coat of paint, and its gates appeared rusty. A Green Flag was noted flying proudly! The presentation of the industrial buildings on the Sligo Road was somewhat inconsistent. Although Gilroy Tiles and Sligo Aluminium looked well, the other buildings appeared less impressive! Landscaping to entrance areas would greatly improve the appearance of these areas. The courthouse in stone was admired. The GAA entrance and grounds looked well.

Landscaping:

The park and associated riverside area was well presented and well cared for. The grass was well mown and

rose bushes were in full bloom. The various stone monuments looked well and trees that had been planted were maturing nicely. We were pleased to note that you plan landscaping on the Bundoran approach road. This is to be welcomed. Although there is an attractive planted gravelled bed on this side of the village, additional landscaping at both approaches would be a strong means of marking the entrances to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Proposals for this category in your Five Year Plan are interesting and achievable. Have you made any progress in regard to the accessibility of the wildflower garden at the school, as suggested by last year's adjudicator? It appeared quite overgrown and neglected on the day. The work at the well area is to your credit and the proposed seating and planting at Boyle's Hole on the riverside walk is looked forward to. Tree planting is always beneficial and additional planting at the park is laudable.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day with little being in evidence, despite the volume of traffic through the village on the busy road from Sligo to Donegal. We noted from last year's report that a decision was made to remove litter bins from the streets of the village but that you now intend to re-instate them at the riverside park. Are you finding this successful?

Waste Minimisation:

The provision of a green composting site is a good idea. Your plans and recommendations under this heading in your Five Year Plan are impressive. How are they progressing? This year's study of waste management practices within the village is an excellent initiative.

Tidiness:

The village generally looked neat and tidy on the day. The timber fencing on the Sligo side of the village had been badly damaged and should be replaced with some stone walling, which would be more appropriate. J. Costello's is an attractive traditional shopfront on the Bundoran Road, which would benefit from restoration.

Residential Areas:

Existing housing stock looked well cared for. An attractive house on grassy well cared for banks was admired opposite the Courthouse. Your work in relation to the walkway at Courthouse Drive and Pine Grove is commendable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The thing that strikes the visitor on both main approach roads is that you are upon the village before you know it! Is there some means by which a greater sense of arrival is created - by landscaping, would be the obvious solution? You have created an attractive park area and landscaped spaces of a similar standard on the approach roads would be marvellous. There are far too many advertising hoardings on approaches - a practise that should be discouraged as it gives approach roads a rather messy appearance. Being located on the main Donegal Sligo Road means that you have the many problems associated with this in terms of traffic management, pedestrian safety etc. Relatively new paving was admired to the Main Street.

General Impression:

The magnificent backdrop of Ben Bulbin creates a marvellous setting for the village. It continues to develop - keep up the good work.