

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Keash** Ref: **1220**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **194**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	194

Overall Development Approach:

Keash Development Association are welcome to the 2007 competition. We note that you were only formed just before Christmas last year but you already appear to have forged strong links with Sligo County Council and Leader, which will be very useful to you in your work. At this stage you should put together a work programme for the next 3, 4 or 5 years. This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your goals and objectives for the village and setting a time-frame against achieving them. You will find this a valuable document in terms of giving you a clear direction and also in helping you to chart your progress. We look forward to your project in relation to creating a tourist attraction of the caves. They are quite visible on the hillside as you approach the village from Ballymote. Please include some information on them with next year's entry, as they seem to be a very interesting phenomenon.

The Built Environment:

The shop looked very fresh and its associated house and garden were also well presented. The school looked well but its boundary wall was in need of a fresh coat of paint. The gable wall to the Fox's Den was in need of repainting - it is quite prominent as you pass by on the roadside. We wish you luck in your efforts to build a playground and playing fields area for the school. The Church looked quite magnificent with its well painted statuary and backdrop murals! The associated planting at the hall and recycling areas complemented this area well.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and grotto at the Church looked marvellous, with its associated car park, railings, stream (a spring?) and water feature! Cheerful pots were noted at various locations around the village, such as at the entrances on approach roads, at the bus stop and at the recycling bins. These made a cheerful impression. The stone walling, picnic areas, gravelled beds and planting to the lay-by on the Boyle Road were admired.

Planting behind the Fox's Den also looked well. There is a lot of scope for further development in this category and this adjudicator feels sure it is a task you will relish!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note that you have no wildlife projects planned. Perhaps you should start considering possibilities in respect of this category of the competition. Other towns and villages have created wildlife gardens, sown wild flower meadows, conducted wildlife surveys of the habitats in and around their locality and erected wildlife information boards. They have also made contact with Birdwatch Ireland and organised Dawn Chorus walks and Midnight Bat Walks! Do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this category of the competition. It is available for download on the Tidy Towns website. Wildflowers, including daisies were spotted in hedgerows around the village.

Litter Control:

The standard on the day was good. However, do bear in mind that even one or two items of litter are going to be more all the apparent in a village of Keash's size. Therefore, special vigilance is called for! The weekly litter patrol is obviously paying off!

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area was neatly maintained. We were delighted to hear that the school is participating in the Green Flag initiative and we wish them all the best in this endeavour. This category is also about how you manage your own recycling - do you segregate litter from your pick ups? Do you compost clippings and cuttings etc from your landscaping work? It also concerns how you communicate this issue to local businesses and households. It would be worthwhile talking to the Environmental Officer in Sligo County Council in order to get some guidance on this.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance. However, weed control was a problem at the boundary wall of the GAA pitch. Dead weeds were noted at boundary walls on the Ballymote side of the village and at the picnic area on the Boyle Road. These should be removed after spraying. Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is complete. Discourage flyposting as it can give roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. Don't neglect outbuildings. A tin shed near the Fox's Den and one by the recycling area needed repainting in their traditional red colour.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens were somewhat inconsistent in their appearance on the day. Some appeared quite neglected with unpainted boundary walls and overgrown gardens (perhaps these are not always occupied?), while other individual houses and gardens, like that of the shop, adjacent to the Church and the rose garden on the Culfadda Road, looked marvellous. The new houses in the vicinity of the Church were well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges on approach roads could have been improved upon on the day, but were generally quite good and not too overgrown. That on the Boyle side of the village was better than that on the Ballymote side. The car parking area at the Church was in good condition, as was that to the bottle banks opposite. The forecourt area to the Fox's Den was a little rough in appearance, however. Indeed, road surfaces throughout were somewhat rough. We were pleased to note you have got your bus stop! Some of the road signage was a little faded in appearance. The directional signage by the school was a little grubby in appearance. Townland name plaques are looked forward to, as are footpaths and lighting to the church.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Keash for the first time. The magnificent backdrop of the cliffy hills and caves made a real impact. The Committee seem like a keen and dedicated one and we wish you luck in your future work.