

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubbercurry** Ref: **721**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **192**
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	192

Overall Development Approach:

The Tubbercurry 2007 Tidy Towns Project documentation made very interesting reading. Your aspirations to “create a visually positive aesthetic showcase” are ambitious worthwhile ones. The Fair Trade Project and Green Town Committees are interesting projects and your association with them is commendable. The fact that you participate in the town website and try to involve the non-national community is also to your credit. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the Department of the Environment, Sligo County Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The colour scheme was an interesting approach to the presentation of buildings. The 1798 Heritage proposal is another interesting project. You would appear to have increased your numbers since last year and have a reasonably high level of support from the local community. Many thanks for your comprehensive maps and application form which were very useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings on Wolfe Tone Square looked fresh and bright, including the AIB, Fergus Brennan's Tool Hire, Dave's Fruit and Veg and the Forge. The side area of Foley's was admired, but the plastic signage that dominates the corner should be removed. Other shopfronts of note were Cawley's with their attractive hanging baskets and window boxes, the Post Office and the shopfront beside - (possibly a private residence) – which is lovely but in a bad state of repair. Laighne Pharmacy was also admired. The square towered Church of Ireland looked well and a mural painted on the nearby gateway (commented upon in last year's report) was noted. The Catholic Church and associated National School looked well but it was felt that additional landscaping could be considered to the grounds in these locations in the form of tree planting. The North Connaught College was quite fresh. The fine new Teach Laighne was admired and must be a marvellous facility to have. Discourage the practice of using curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings, which are more appropriate. Some premises such as Leonard's Hardware Providers old building were quite empty and neglected looking. The Garda Station was quite fresh.

Some of the buildings on Humbert Street were quite grubby.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition that you obviously enjoy. Both hard and soft landscaping at Wolfe Tone Square was admired. The musician silhouette appeared to have been repainted and the clock tower is a marvellous landmark. The landscaped space at the junction of Humbert Street and the Circular Road looked very well, with permanent planting and pansies. The planting opposite the National School on the Boyle approach was also very effective. We look forward to seeing your plans for the well and the external paintings planned to promote Tubbercurry's part in the 1798 Rebellion. The car park area to the GAA grounds is well presented. The planting at the Galway end of the Circular Road is most effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild bird garden was admired with its modern timber bench. Your plans to have ongoing development of this area is admirable, especially provision of bird and bat boxes. The Woodlands Park Project sounds like another worthwhile proposal. The planting of saplings by the National School for use in your landscaping projects is commendable.

Litter Control:

Litter was extremely bad at a gateway opposite the Fire Station and more was in evidence at a gateway on the Lane. Litter was also spotted on the Galway Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre was still under construction on the Circular Road on the day.

Tidiness:

There was evidence of graffiti at the Lane and to the coping of the planters on the Square.

Residential Areas:

A few of the boundary walls to bungalows on the Boyle Road appeared a little grubby, but generally houses and gardens along this road looked well. A new entrance was admired to Fairways estate, with its stone wall and fencing. The Rock was under construction on the day. Some boundary walls to houses opposite the Garda Station were in bad order. A marvellous garden on the Galway Road displayed some magnificent Cana Lillies. Ard Aisling had some lovely stone walling at the entrance area, and had marvellous planting, as did Highfield. Some very interesting houses with barrel vaulted porches were admired opposite North Connaught College.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Welcome signage was admired on the Boyle Road. Unfortunately this road appeared quite overgrown and displayed far too many advertising hoardings, resulting in a very cluttered appearance. Road verges improved closer to the town centre. The road to Galway was in slightly better condition but still sported an abundance of hoardings – some of them very grubby. Roadworks were taking place on this road and a wall appeared to be just constructed - is stone facing intended here? The pole of the directional signage at Wolfe Tone Square was very rusty. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, the rear areas of buildings along main street look quite unfortunate and neglected when viewed from the Circular Road. Road surfaces throughout were not in the best of condition.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Tubbercurry for the first time. It is a town whose residents show an evident care in its future.