

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drangan** Ref: **598**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **242**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	242

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive submission, which included photographs, artworks, the Slievenamon Echoes 2007, and your detailed report outlining your programme under the adjudication headings, which the adjudicator found very helpful. Drangan is a charming village in a wooded rural setting. The Main Street of the village, which curves beyond the Church when viewed from the Post Office, has an interesting vernacular form. Your committee of nine is to be congratulated for their engagement with Tipperary County Council, the school and local businesses. The results of this co-operation is already paying dividends and you are to be congratulated on the achievement of various awards for your work in the village.

The Built Environment:

The commercial buildings of the Main Street were well presented and give the impression of a busy urban street. Comments have been made in a previous report on the issue of signage. The two-storey buildings with varying roof heights, contain the best features of Irish vernacular architecture. The preservation of this character is important to the uniqueness of the village and one of the issues of which the community should be mindful, is to preserve the traditional sash windows, where these remain.

The area of the village by the Church involving the Grotto, the Michael Cusack Memorial, Mystique Salon located in the old school/church (a building worthy of protected structure status), The Archway Bar, and the former convent (now a private residence), is most charming. There is one important corner building in this location presently disused. It is to be hoped that this building will be renovated in the future and will retain its attractive features.

Landscaping:

The village street was attractively presented with a variety of flower baskets, tubs and containers. The hanging flower baskets at the Church were particularly admired. The provision of trees by South Tipperary County Council is commendable. The area surrounding the Montip Engineering and the adjoining housing scheme need some further large scale tree planting. If a hedgerow were placed on the high bank boundary between the Montip building and the adjoining housing it would provide screening enclosure and a soft backdrop to the housing scheme. The efforts in relation to long-term tree planting is a good and sustainable programme and the results of these efforts will pay dividends in time. The new playground is a tremendous facility in the village centre and together with its surrounding park hugely enhances its location. When the school development is completed the overall development will be a wonderful amenity in the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Drangan community is obviously very aware of the content of wildlife in the area and have already commenced a programme of sustainability in relation to this issue. The bird boxes at St Mary's Cemetery and the bird feeding table were noted. The secretary has submitted a detailed report of the wildlife wonders of Drangan and district. As a previous adjudicator pointed out, it would be most beneficial if this information could be visually displayed by means of a display panel, to enhance local awareness.

Litter Control:

Litter Control on the day of adjudication was excellent and both Tipperary County Council and yourselves are to be congratulated on your litter cleaning programme. The Wednesday mechanical cleaning and bin emptying programme, together with the daily input of the local volunteers, has paid huge dividends particularly in the main village streets. Well Done! This is a commendable effort.

Waste Minimisation:

The well maintained recycling depot located at the school, currently under construction, has been noted. The Local Authority collection and the school educational programme form further enhancement to your efforts. Well done to the local residents who have provided their own individual recycling units. As pointed out in last year's report, some further ideas from the Race Against Waste booklet could now be adopted, especially in the light of the ongoing communication between the pupils of the school and the environmental officer of the South Tipperary County Council.

Tidiness:

It was noted that there are a number of building sites under construction throughout the village. When these sites have been completed they will have the immediate effect of enhancing their various locations. Weed control is required in a number of housing schemes and in the area surrounding Montip Engineering.

Residential Areas:

The village centre contains some extremely attractive residences, a fine townhouse adjacent to the Post Office and the pink building opposite Slattery's garage were particularly attractive in a street that was much admired. A number of the residential housing schemes had no name signs and their installation could provide attractive features. Hillview Estate looks well from the approach road. However, railings to the front require painting and a number of houses were boarded up in the rear courtyard. The painting of the boardings (maybe a dark colour) would provide an immediate visual improvement. Overall the grassed areas were well maintained and tidy. The news houses behind the Grotto provide a very nice sense of place. This scheme had some nicely presented private gardens but overall it requires a major tree planting scheme, with native species, to enhance its location. The road and site works of the Miller's Lane scheme were under construction and have not yet been developed. The Paddock Scheme contains four nice residences of a rural character, opposite the GAA grounds. A linear row of deciduous trees of the same species would provide a strong definition line to the road edge here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The resurfacing to the Urlingford approach road was noted, as was the improvements to footpaths in a number of locations. The planning application notice for the site between the Hillview Estate and the village pump, was noted. It is to be hoped that any development here will resolve the issue of the connecting footpath. Generally speaking, the approach roads are very attractive, however broken concrete paddock fencing at the Cloneen / Moyglass cross-roads, if repaired, would provide a more favourable impression at this entrance. Further along this approach road the village announcement sign should be cleaned.

General Impression:

Drangan is undergoing much development at the moment and no doubt these works, when completed, will hugely enhance this attractive village.