

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ruan** Ref: **86**
County: **Clare** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form together with your five year plan as recommended in your report by the adjudicator last year. This plan allows one to have measurable benchmarks to work to. It will also act as a good discipline for your development work. We look forward to seeing its implementation over the coming years.

The Built Environment:

The standard of presentation of buildings is rather mixed and your committee is dependent on the co-operation and goodwill of local owners to keep premises up a high standard. Getting people to address issues such as dereliction and waste ground can be a delicate operation. The Church and school were well presented. The GAA grounds, apart from the entry gate, could do with a good painting. The Dalcassian Road Bar and Purcell's Bar looked well. Also the old post office looked well apart from the gaudy signs. The Service Station could do with some painting, particularly the white wall. The Phone Box opposite the service station needs to be replaced or discontinued; broken Perspex etc. The old national school is in need of improvement.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements in the village and its immediate surrounds, especially the approach roads were very attractive. You have made great choices in trees, low maintenance shrubs to suit the surroundings particularly in terms of contrast of greenery and colour against your very attractive stone walls. Congratulations to all concerned. The broken fencing problem on the Tubber Road next to green area needs to be addressed. This area could also be added to regarding colourful planting etc. The area surrounding the village pump needs attention.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village and its surround is a haven for various species of wildlife with its accessibility to the Mid Clare Way and Dromore Wood, also your nature/wildlife shelter. Continue to involve children on projects in this area. Consider some wildlife display boards to promote a greater interest in wildlife.

Litter Control:

The village was free of litter on the day of adjudication and this is a testament to the good work of the committee in advancing the message of good litter control. Keep up the great work.

Waste Minimisation:

The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. Involving the school children is excellent as children tend to take on board projects with gusto and also learn good practices at an early age. Refer to the Race Against Waste publication, included with the original application package for ideas and initiatives that would suit your community, e.g. Green Flag Programme for Schools, Bottle Bank etc. Lay emphasis on waste reduction through recycling and reuse.

Tidiness:

There are not many commercial properties in the village hence there is virtually no fly posting to be seen in windows in a large scale. As mentioned previously the signs at the old Post Office need attention. The Rural Houses were very well maintained. Hedges and grass areas were neatly cut and well presented.

Residential Areas:

Most residences in the village and on the outskirts with a few notable exceptionals were very well presented. Continue with your projects planned for all residential areas, e.g. Toormoor footpath from the centre to Hazelgrove. Continue stone wall to the back of Council Houses. Cap to be put on wall at community centre. Improve entrance to new council estate. The committee deserves praise for facilitating these initiatives. All will add greatly to your village and Tidy Towns when complete.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All entrances to the village were excellent especially from Ennis and have been referred to already for the standard of landscaping / planting, etc. Tree planting of previous years continues to enhance the approach roads.

General Impression:

Ruan is a very pleasant village to visit. It has the potential to gain more ground in the competition and the adjudicator suggests that you continue with what is being done at the moment – no need for over elaboration to spoil its uniqueness. Keep up the good work and you are wished well for the future.