

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Loch Gowna** Ref: **55**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **249**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>249</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Lough Gowna is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission. We note the absence of a planned work programme you should submit at least a plan summary with each year of entry. Well done on your links with all sectors of the community and particularly with the sponsorship you receive from business interests. Well done also on your engagement with the school. Gowna can be considered a work in progress as a number of development sites were noted at the time of adjudication and more appear to be planned as site notices were observed at a number of locations. The committee should engage with developers at the planning application stage as it is easier to make input at this stage than to have development changed later on. Log-on to the TidyTowns website at [www.tidytowns.ie](http://www.tidytowns.ie) for useful information and resource material on participating.

### **The Built Environment:**

Buildings in the village centre are nicely presented and it was good to note that the presentation of Fitzpatrick's Tavern was as good to its rear façade as it was to its roadside facade. The Pikers Lodge premises were nicely presented also and the All Hire & Excel premises together with Whytes were nicely painted. Continue to try to have dated beer signs removed from roadside facades. Both churches, the National School and St Brigids Hall enjoyed a good presentation and the freshly whitewashed farm buildings beyond the graveyard were admired. The roadside boundary wall of the Aero Board is a little weather stained and could be improved. Hopefully the new development at the crossroads will be finished to a high standard and maintained well. The Health Centre premises looked well also.

### **Landscaping:**

Flower and shrub displays at the school, both churches and the Fair Green were colourful; keep up the planting of permanent plants for year round interest. In future planting schemes place as much emphasis as possible on native species as these are supportive of wildlife, perhaps cultivars of species in the surrounding countryside could be planted. The amenity area on the Granard Road was admired as was planting at residential areas .

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on the continued monitoring and maintenance of walks and wildlife areas, perhaps more details could be provided on your activities next year, we acknowledge the completion of the Swan Lake amenity development, could it be signposted from the village centre?. The feasibility of greater pedestrian access to Church Lake on the Longford road might be established as well as the feasibility for a pull in car-parking area to service the lakeside amenity area on the Granard road. Wildlife interpretive panels are suggested for lakesides and at amenity areas in the village centre together with signposting.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good on adjudication day. The school competition for litter awareness sounds like a good idea, let us know the outcome next year. A litter survey might be undertaken to identify the source and type of litter which prevails, this will enable you to devise better strategies for litter control. All litter collected should be segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be overstated.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done on your representations to householders seeking co-operation with bin segregation and collection for recycling. We note your plan to organise litter clean-ups on a regular basis with volunteers. Consideration might be given to a Community Waste Audit to determine the amount of waste generated in Lough Gowna with a view to reducing this in addition to recycling activities

#### **Tidiness:**

A number of development sites were a work-in-progress within the village however these were being reasonably well maintained and there is not too much untidiness as a result. The corrugated roofs to the buildings on the bend of the Granard road could be improved as they are highly visible. We acknowledge work accomplished on weed control and graffiti.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Landscaping at the entrance to the residential development behind the school looks well. On-street residential development near the old national school is enjoying good maintenance and the new development overlooking the lake enjoys an enviable location. The small development beside the shops on the Arvagh road are attractive and work-in-progress was noted at a development on the Granard road. The committee should now host 'Meet the Neighbours' evenings with a view to welcoming new residents into the life of the community in general and to the Tidy Towns in particular. Ideally new residents should take responsibility for the maintenance of their own estates

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The ugly service pole at the crossroads with cables radiating in several directions will hopefully be removed when construction work has ceased at the crossroads. Street furniture in general looked well however the water pump near the crossroads could be refurbished. Verges on the Arvagh road were allowed remain in their natural state which is fine whilst those on the Longford road were neatly trimmed which is good also. The new footpath to the RC Church and out the Granard road is acknowledged

#### **General Impression:**

Lough Gowna is an attractive village enjoying a wonderful location with so many natural amenities on its doorstep. Hopefully greater pedestrian access to these will be created in the not too distant future to cater for your growing population.