

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Virginia** Ref: **58**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **218**
Category: **D** Date(s): **03/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	218

Overall Development Approach:

Virginia is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this it's 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission which included your plan, we wish you success in its implementation. Your map with a combined nature and heritage trail was helpful. The new TidyTowns sub-committee which has been recently formed is welcome. We note your engagement with local schools under theme of 'Litter Awareness' and 'Nature Habitat Preservation' talks. The proposed plan for the 400th year anniversary of Virginia being formulated by the Nature/Heritage sub-committee sounds exciting. Your engagement with Cavan County Council is noted also as is your use of local publications to circulate the TidyTowns message.

The Built Environment:

The newly-developed Virginia Shopping Centre is an attractive complex and is nicely landscaped and surfaced. The majority of shops and public houses are nicely presented however have a word with shop-owners regarding the positioning of posters in windows and doors as these tend to spoil an otherwise good presentation, an example this year being the Electronics Store. The newly developed college looks well also. The planned Resource Centre and playground are excellent initiatives.

Landscaping:

Tree-planting on the road to the lake is a most attractive feature creating an avenue effect, hopefully these will survive to maturity; flower displays on the bridge and throughout the village were in full bloom and created a pleasant ambience in Virginia. The hard and soft landscaping at the junction with Ballyjamesduff is successful at this important focal point of the town and the stand of mature trees in the grounds of the Church of Ireland is as impressive as always and is a landmark feature of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note from your submission that a Lake Shore Development Committee has been formed to look at future possibilities for this important amenity, be sure to keep us informed of your plan. The walk through Deer Park is most enjoyable and no doubt the planned linear river/lake walk will be just as successful. A wildlife survey of the proposed walk is suggested with perhaps the possibility of constructing a bird hide.

Litter Control:

Your regular clean-ups are effective for maintaining the high standard of litter control which has been achieved in Virginia. It is good to note your plans to appoint a liaison person for engagement with schools. Litter bins appear to be well-positioned. Small amounts of litter were noted at a variety of locations none of which presented a serious problem. Ensure that all litter collected is segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be overstated.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point in the car-park of the new shopping centre is well positioned however a lot of dumping was noted here during the course of adjudication, this is regrettable and has lost you a mark under this heading. We applaud your representations regarding cigarette end litter control. We wish you every success regarding the participation of the school in the Green Schools Programme. The ultimate goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community with this in mind a waste audit should be undertaken as a starting point.

Tidiness:

We acknowledge the discussions that are in progress between the committee the county council, and the ESB regarding the ducting of overhead service cables and look forward to developments in this respect. The number of unsightly corrugated roofs present a problem and a few side and rear areas visible from the public road were in need of upgrading. Hopefully your discussions regarding unwanted signs which cause visual clutter will be fruitful.

Residential Areas:

The entrance to Virginia from the Cavan approach road is superb in appearance with neatly maintained green spaces, mature trees and beautifully presented gardens. The Baileborough road is presented to a high standard in this respect also. Other stone dwellings have great charm and character and new developments look well ; hopefully new residents will become involved in the maintenance of their areas, we note from your submission that the committee is meeting with residents in this regard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road and footpath surfaces throughout the village are quite good and car-parking is orderly. Street furniture is also reasonably presented; well done on the cleaning of signs and the maintenance of walls and kerbs in a weed free . The proposed upgrade of the junction at the Dublin at/Baileborough Road is duly noted, we look forward to developments in this area.

General Impression:

Given the amount of traffic that passes through Virginia on a daily basis the village is well presented and has fine natural amenities. The work of the sub committees regarding future developments is eagerly anticipated.