

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tuamgraney** Ref: **90**
County: **Clare** Mark: **281**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	17
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	281

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you, the Tuamgraney Development Association (TDA) for entering the 2008 TidyTowns Competition and for continuing your work on TidyTowns on behalf of the town's population of less than 1,000 people. Your detailed submission for 2008 reflects the hard work of your committee of ten people carried out at your monthly meetings and the resulting actual physical projects. Well done to all. Thank you also for the rough sketch map relating to Tidy Town activities in Tuamgraney. Congratulations on your association with and support from the three public sector organisations listed, this will only be of benefit to Tuamgraney. Your Communication strategy of Newsletters, newspaper reports and public meetings, if required, are all very good elements of TidyTowns activities. Your meetings with the local schools are also positive as is evident by the awarding of the Green Flag to the Community College. Well done to the College.

A specific recommendation for the future is the need to prepare a three-year plan outlining the intended work of TidyTowns activities up to 2011. This plan will enable the committee to establish achievable targets and measure progress against the set targets. This plan would also benefit the work of the committee and TDA in discussions and meetings with the Local Authority and other public and private sector organisations. A very simple plan of say two pages would be sufficient and there is no need to have the plan prepared by any professional.

Congratulations again on your 2008 entry to the TidyTowns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Tuamgraney's progress continues into 2008. As with many similar villages Tuamgraney is a busy commercial, tourist/leisure, heritage and dormitory village. The objective of making all these aspects of 21st century life work and be in harmony with each other is difficult. Due to the above features, road traffic is never ending.

This places pressures on all aspects of the built environment in the village.

Many premises are a credit to their owners with high quality fronts, well maintained and adorned, in the main, with appropriate floral displays. In town roadside premises worthy of note include: Teach Ni Bhrian, McKernan Handweavers, the Handball Club premises is well maintained but the physical contrast of the building with the Castle O'Grady is interesting. The area around the Craughrum river and the East Clare Heritage Centre in St Cronan's Church is well maintained and a very attractive feature of the village. Some other premises in prominent positions would benefit from an appropriate coat of paint and the resulting facelift.

St Joseph's Catholic Church and its grounds looked well with a lovely display hanging baskets in bloom.

The residences and buildings opposite the Memorial Park are a gem. In general all residences adjacent to the Memorial park are in excellent condition with some lovely front gardens.

The Memorial Park/Garden of Remembrance is a superb feature in the centre of the village. The recent work is obvious to all, with many new flower/shrub maintenance-free beds and the new water feature (not yet working on the day of my visit). Young and elderly alike will appreciate the seating and new handrailed stepped areas. Congratulations on the Park.

Some future action areas might include:

The wirescape of the overhead ESB cables, examine if their removal underground is possible.

As planned, the completion of the sewerage works in the village.

Street/place nameplates would be an asset to the visitor, a project underway as stated in your submission.

The removal of inappropriate material used in name plates on shopfronts and commercial premises might be considered as a target

The preparation of a Heritage Trail publication and also make into a interpretative panel

Paint the obvious commercial premises in high profile areas.

Landscaping:

Your attention to excellent landscaping around the village in flower baskets/containers and well-maintained grass areas is indicated by the excellent work at the approach roads from Killaloe and from Bodyke. A nice fenced off area well maintained, on the Bodyke Road, was impressive. These approach roads sent out the message of care and attention to detail with grassed areas, trees, hanging baskets, other flower tubs, all in harmony. The stone signs of Failte to Tuamgraney are an excellent feature as are the bilingual signs of Failte to Tuamgraney, 1500 years of Heritage. The well designed stone sign for the East Clare Equestrian Centre was noted. Well done to all.

The green area in Reddans Quay and at Scariff Harbour are also well maintained.

As previously stated, the Memorial Park/Garden of Remembrance is a superb feature in the centre of the village. The recent work is obvious to all, with many new flower/shrub maintenance-free beds and the new water feature.

The 50th Anniversary tree planted is worthwhile.

A recommendation is for all signage on approach roads be examined for consistency of material and display.

Also for premises/facilities on the outskirts be examined for maintenance needs (painting etc) and improved as required

Where possible (allowing for cost considerations etc) the use of stone walls instead of other material would be of benefit.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Reddan's Quay is a wonderful amenity for residents and visitors alike. The Quay is well maintained, good signage, well cut grass, and nice seats. The access road could be improved.

The display of a number of interpretative panels showing the native fish and the birds of the area could be considered as a future project.

As stated in your submission Scariff Harbour is in the townland of Tuamgraney. Therefore another wonderful amenity to be further developed for the benefit of all. Already Scariff Harbour is in excellent condition and the excellent work of Waterways Ireland is noted.

Litter Control:

On the day of my visit Tuamgraney looked almost litter free, a word of praise to five different groups involved in the daily patrol as stated in your entry pack. Well done on the "No Chewing Gum" initiative.

Litter Free signs were evident in the village.

Waste Minimisation:

The recent awarding to the Community College of the Green Flag is a very worthwhile initiative.

The promotion of best practice and the segregation of litter in businesses in the Industrial Estate is a positive feature.

Tidiness:

As stated in your submission there is major disruption in the village due to the ongoing work on the new sewage system. As a result roads and footpaths are in need of repair.

There appeared to be good traffic management and adequate parking facilities in the centre of the village and at places like Reddan's Quay and Scariff Harbour. Some untidy condition of approach road from Reddans Quay. Some Advertising signs at commercial premises were considered inappropriate. There seemed to be an absence of graffiti in general. The state of one car in a private driveway was considered to be dumped.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of individual residences and their gardens was excellent around the village centre. Community open space; in particular the Memorial Park was very good. Some boundary walls are in need of attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads looked well on my visit; with flower tubs, flower beds, grassed areas and hedges in good condition.

Some signposting required painting and a general clean up. Some road surfaces are in need of repair, e.g. Reddan's Quay

General Impression:

Keep up the excellent work and congratulations on a task well done.

Your belief that "helping hand is worth more than a thousand words of advice" is indeed a worthy mantra. I look forward to future visits to Tuamgraney.