

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Letterfrack** Ref: **201**
County: **Galway** Mark: **222**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	9
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Letterfrack to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition and thank you for the supporting documentation and especially the Letterfrack Village Plan. This is a most interesting document that seems to set out a clear vision for the future of the village. Hopefully by next summer there will be some final community decisions on the implementation of the Plan. The EASA gathering in August must surely provide the community some discussion opportunities on the future of Letterfrack. It is encouraging to read that FAS are supporting your work for TidyTowns. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

The new Creche and the face lift to the Garda Station are welcome developments. The Church was much admired, well painted with the attractive narrow slit windows sitting on its elevated site. However The Country Shop really caught the eye and the excellent graphics here complement in a satisfactory way the modern architectural approach to this building. The College uses a satisfactory mix of colours together with timber elevational elements. At the hardware premises the yellow sign might be replaced if possible with a more traditional signage approach if possible. Nearby Weldon's Bar & Restaurant was well presented and the glass elements here were admired. The derelict building on the road to the Post office at the black and white road sign needs cosmetic attention or screening from view. On this road the very large building near Heather Hill Cottages needed some front elevation attention. Another building that caught the eye was The Pangur Ban Restaurant where the combination of stone and red timberwork works really well. The blue of the Butcher's Shop needed a little touching up. The Arus Ghuaire building is now complete and this adjudicator is of the view that the front elevation stonework is out of scale with the streetscape here and the building tends to dominate.

Landscaping:

Apart from the Gunnera issue you did not highlight any new work for 2008 in your entry form. The attractive landscaped gardens at the cross roads were extremely eye catching and colourful and in some way helps to draw attention away from the signage clutter at this junction. The Bog Oak sculpture here was much admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No new projects were identified under this category for 2008. The Connemara National Park is such an important development for the village and Connemara. Have you considered talking to the Visitor Centre here about the issue of local wildlife? It is suggested that you might take on just one or two projects each year. For a start an information panel in the centre of Letterfrack about the local wildlife would be a great start.

Litter Control:

The concrete plinth at the Bring Centre is an improvement. However the overall presentation here is low keep and not especially attractive. It is suggested that the low stone wall here be continued parallel with the roadway and the area in the middle grassed and landscaped. In other words it is recommended that you make a village feature of the Bring Centre. On the approach from the west litter was noted near the National Park sign, and in the small car park beside The Bard's Den.

Waste Minimisation:

No projects that come under this heading were identified for 2008 in your entry form. It is suggested that you look at The Race Against Waste booklet that will have many ideas for your committee to consider. Have you discussed this issue with the appropriate officer in Galway County Council where they have much expertise available? Congratulations to the School on their Green Flag success.

Tidiness:

The undergrounding of cables in the village is a most important project and hopefully will be completed before too long. Tidiness is one of the weaker performance areas of Letterfrack and a number of issues were noted on adjudication day. These included the clutter of signs at the cross roads – 12 in all on two poles – can some rationalisation be done here through the County Council? Your three black spots were examined and hopefully there will be eventual progress in these areas. Weed growth was a very serious problem and weed growth was noted on both sides of the road leading up to the Church and on all other approach roads and at the base of other stone walls. On the road to the Church an apparently abandoned van was noted that might be screened from public view. The area around the Bring Centre needed to be tidied up as suggested above and the pump was rusty and could become a village feature. The paint on the triangular information panel at the cross roads needed attention as it was beginning to peel. Also a spelling mistake was noted here where the word 'Renyle' as a heading was noted instead of 'Renvyle'.

Residential Areas:

The Keelkyle Cottages have used a good colour scheme that is quite attractive but weed growth at the kerbs here detracted from the overall presentation. In general other properties were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The tree lined approach road to the National Park is beautiful. On other approaches little recent work appeared to have been done and weed growth was noted frequently. When developing roadside verges on approach roads do retain any stretches of flowers or Montbretia for example and aim for a green verge in between. This will also help to meet the needs of wildlife.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Letterfrack for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.