

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Oranmore** Ref: **204**
County: **Galway** Mark: **173**
Category: **D** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	16
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	173

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Oranmore back to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Your last entry was in 2005 and it is really great to have Oranmore back in the TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and the most interesting Plan 'More Colours for Oranmore'. With a committee of 15 people TidyTowns obviously enjoys strong support in Oranmore. Your Committee seems to have regular meetings and that is an excellent approach. It was good to see that you are working with Galway County Council and that you enjoy good support from the business community. The liaison with the Primary Schools Principals is most important as all Schools should play a key role in your plans. The adjudicator suggests that you prepare a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan that would guide your work year by year for the period 2009 – 2011. The scale of the map supplied was too small to be really helpful and you might include a map of slightly larger scale next year. 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 adjudicator noted your strategy of deferring major development for TidyTowns until all development within Oranmore is completed.

The Built Environment:

The restoration of the Well has been a great and important project for Oranmore and well done on your commitment to that project. Attractive stone buildings are a key characteristic of the built environment in Oranmore and The Old Brewery was one of several that caught the eye. The contrast between the colours used here and the Limestone façade is very effective. The Centre premises was well presented and very crisp in appearance as was the petrol pumps and shop. The adjudicator was impressed with the scale of the Arrabawn development that was under way at the time of adjudication. Hopefully the external finish and landscaping will be appropriate. Along the road to the Castle and College here has very interesting roof lines and using white as the only colour here is effective. Other buildings that were admired included the Garda

Station.

Landscaping:

Thank you for including a copy of 'More Colours for Oranmore' which is an ambitious landscaping programme for the town. The eight projects when completed will certainly add to the appearance of 'More Colours for Oranmore' in a major way. The adjudicator would make the following points in regard to your future landscaping plans –

- a. Plant for year round colour
- b. Use native trees and shrubs
- c. Use plants that will encourage wildlife such as Butterflies
- d. Keep low maintenance in mind
- e. Use plants and trees that are favoured by insects
- f. The issue of ecology should play a key role in the development of each of the eight areas.
- g. Simplicity of landscape design can often be more effective than a complicated approach.

In the years ahead we look forward to seeing your progress year on year. The new landscaping at the Boys School was admired and hanging baskets, window boxes and flower tubs added welcome colour in many areas. Good landscaping was noted at the Gort / Maree road junction. It was encouraging to see that many private individuals had also good landscaping displays.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The projects that came under this adjudication category were noted on the entry form. The ecology assessment of the Well sounds interesting and you might include a copy with your entry in 2008. This study along may lead to some wildlife projects. Your Committee might consider having a simple Survey carried out of the wildlife in the More Colours for Oranmore area involving the Schools. This would then lead to the development of wildlife areas and the provision of public information.

Litter Control:

The entry form mentioned TidyTowns initiatives for Schools but did not elaborate. It would be interesting to know for next year what anti-litter projects you have involving the Schools in Oranmore. General litter control was not bad in Oranmore on adjudication day. Some litter was present on the Gort and Galway Coast roads and especially opposite the entrance to Abhainn na Ri. The Bring Centre was visited and some dumping was noted here. Also the damaged signage needed attention. It is suggested that the concrete wall to the back be painted in a dark colour. Litter was also present on the road to the Castle not far from the Castle entrance gate.

Waste Minimisation:

No projects were mentioned in the entry form that come under this category. It is recommended that you get a copy of the 'Race Against Waste' booklet from the TidyTowns Unit as this will give you many suggestions for consideration by your Committee. This category is really about trying to reduce the amount of waste generated in Oranmore and the encouraging of recycling. Congratulations to the Boys National School on their Green Flag achievement.

Tidiness:

Graffiti was noted in a few areas such as on the black and yellow road sign on the main approach road from Gort and on the steel unit at the entrance to the Ramada hotel. There was also a graffiti problem on the steel unit opposite Asian Fusion. The entrance walls on both sides at the entrance to the underground car park needed to be painted. The overall presentation of Oranmore in terms of tidiness has improved since your last entry.

Residential Areas:

Some of the estates visited in Oranmore were indeed impressive. The new footpaths in Rinnvile Park caught the adjudicator's attention but the landscaping at Abhainn na Ri by the iron railings and at the car parking areas was exceptionally good. Nearby the Riverdale estate was nearly as impressive. At Cloonarkin Drive grass was overflowing the kerbs along the entrance road. The landscaping on the approach to Coill Clocha was well maintained and created a great first impression but the raised manhole covers in this estate could be dangerous. Mature trees and hedging at Beech Grove impressed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The stone walls along the main approach roads are a key feature but some wall repairs were needed in various locations within the 50 KPH boundary. Where plants or Ivy are present in these old walls they should be retained. On two of the approach roads the attractive Welcome signs were partially obscured by some of

the landscaping – a simple matter of trimming back.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Oranmore and we wish you well with your projects for next year, especially the ambitious landscaping plan. It is good to have Oranmore back in TidyTowns.