

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrickmacross** Ref: **586**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **286**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **02/07/2008**  
**17/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>286</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Carrickmacross is welcomed to the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Your entry form was detailed and the provision of maps, photographs and supporting material always makes it easier of an adjudicator to allocate marks! It is wonderful to note that you still have five of your committee have been involved for twenty three years - clearly there is no sign of volunteer fatigue here! Please mention in next years entry how many are actually on your committee and estimate the number of volunteers who assist you throughout the year. As you are now at a very high level in the competition (and for this you care congratulated!) you need to submit a detailed Three Year Plan and its absence is the reason for the deduction in marks. Having said this, your ongoing relationships and support from the Scout Group, Foroige Club, Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Town Council, Credit Union and business sector in general is commended. It is clear that you liaise with the local schools regularly and this is lauded. Your comments have been noted regarding the categories of the competition and, if its any consolation there are many villages and towns throughout the country in the 'wrong' categories due to 'official' boundaries.

### The Built Environment:

Scoil Rois and St Louis wre neatly presented. The murals at the Carrickmacross Youth Reach building brightened up the area and looked great! The 'faihte' stone on the with celtic swirl was greatly admired and the one with the town crest too was noted. Some of the commercial businesses admired included, Metropolitan Finance, McArdals Eng., McNamees Bakery, Angel Flowers and Frankie Fashions. Similarly the Garda Station was commended for its colourful window box display and MacArdals Pub, as ever was admired for its traditional appearance. Inver College, the new Playgrounds and the Roman Catholic Church were neatly presented. The entrance to Pairc Emmet should be repainted before next years competition. Dereliction is a problem in most towns and indeed villages and Carrickmacross is no different. The Workhouse and grounds look marvellous but the flagpoles were beginning to rust and should be repainted before next years

competition. It is a pity to note that the plans for the library and civic offices have fallen through.

### **Landscaping:**

The roundabout sponsored by Kingspan was glorious on the day of adjudication. The newly landscaped roundabout to Castleblaney too looks wonderful - well done! The flower bed at the Ballybay/Clones junction adds a welcome splash of colour and numerous planters were noted throughout the town centre and approach roads through the rain! A rose bed at Lisaniske Lake was in full bloom and here the landscaped bank at Drummond Radhairc is fantastic. The maruting trees at the Carrickmacross UDC Treatment Works and Depot were noted. Finally another impressive rose bed was noted on the Kingscourt road.

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

You mention in your entry form that there is 'more replanting in progress' at Lisanisk Lake. Please provide more information on this with next years report. The lakeside amenity is a wonderful asset to the town and you are commended for your continued work here. Thank you for the inclusion of the Kavanagh Trail brochure as requested by last years adjudicator.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good on the day of adjudication. A few pieces were noted here and there on Main Street. A substantial scattering was noted at the playing field beside the playground at Cloughvalley. Some litter was noted at Church Grove also. Well maintained green and yellow bins were admired throughout the streetscape.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The success of the local school in the Green Flag Programme is wonderful and the newspaper article was read with interest. It must be a great help to your committee to have so many experts in the town! Please indicate clearly on your map the location of the bring banks as not all could be found (possibly as a result of the roadworks). You didn't mention if litter is segregated and recycled - please give further information with next years entry.

### **Tidiness:**

The general streetscape of Carrickmacross is quite tidy in appearance with an odd inappropriate sign noted. Overgrown grass verges were noted on the Drumconrath road blocking the town sign. On the Castleblaney road the signage was a little stained and should be cleaned regularly, the area beneath was quite overgrown with weeds and grass giving an untidy appearance. Kerbside weed control is good in Carrickmacross but some were noted in the Ardross Avenue area and these should be removed. The completion of roadworks and pipelaying will have a significant impact on the town.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the elevated gardens on the N2 were greatly admired and houses were well painted. The landscaped area on the approach to Highfield is a credit to those who maintain it. The new residential development at Corra na Tobair was commended for its fresh appearance, neatly cut grass and maturing trees. Many of the residences at Cloughvalley were admired, in particular, Rock Daniel and The Firs. A number of boarded up cottages were noted in this area, are there any plans to redevelop these? Ascaill Dubh and Cluain Alainn are nearing completion and we look forward to this. Drummond Radhairc is exceptional in its presentation and affords the most spectacular view of Lisanisk Lake and the surrounding drumlins. Ivy Court and Beech Drive were also admired for their crisp appearance.

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

Ongoing pipelaying and general roadworks were noted at various locations throughout Carrickmacross. Currently road surfaces are quite uneven in places and hopefully this will be remedied when works are completed. The Crossmaglen road looked particularly well with neatly maintained verges, good road surface and new paths. Your marks have been sustained pending the completion of the works as it is unfair to penalise you for improvement works pending - hopefully next year will see an increase in this section.

### **General Impression:**

Carrickmacross is continuing to progress in the Tidy Towns at the highest level and for this you are congratulated. Please submit a detailed three year plan with next years entry. Best of luck!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Your 2nd Round adjudicator had not visited Carrickmacross for some years and was initially impressed with

how the town had developed in the period since the last visit. A closer examination of Carrickmacross confirmed this initial impression.

This adjudicator agreed with the 1st Round adjudicator who referred to the lack of a TidyTowns Plan for Carrickmacross and a three year time-scale is recommended. This will guide your work from year to year. It is a good idea to include the potential cost of each project and a note of any partners who might work with you on each project. The file that accompanied your entry was most interesting and gave a clear picture of your enthusiastic work for TidyTowns during the year. Your work to encourage the retention of old shop fronts is warmly welcomed by this adjudicator and the simple but very effective McArdle Eng building was admired. A number of other buildings in Carrickmacross caught the eye including the old Fever Hospital building and of course the Workhouse that has been so effectively restored. The Garda Station with the stone façade and unusual porch stands out. Dereliction remains a problem to be resolved and presumably you are working with the County Council on this issue.

You have done major work in the preparation and siting of so many colourful flower containers throughout the town and on approach roads. This adjudicator however was of the view that the plants growing from the sides of the flower tubs detracted a little from the overall effect of the colourful Geraniums but this is just a personal view. It is suggested that along Main Street there is potential to locate quite a number of trees planted at Standard size along both sides of the street.

Based on the 2nd Round adjudication visit there had been a decline in litter control since the 1st Round adjudication. Quite a lot of litter was noted along the Main Street and in some of the narrow laneways off this street. Litter was also noted on the hill down to the Mullarny road junction with the Shercock road. In some of these narrow laneways the walls on both sides needed to be repainted and the display of retail goods on the pavement should be discouraged. It can cause difficulties for the disabled and did look a little untidy. Some of the black bollards needed to be repainted. The neat black and gold town signage was much admired though some of the signs needed to be washed. On the Monaghan approach excellent landscaping was noted on both sides of the road near the College. The landscaping here was very colourful and very well maintained. Some of the housing estates were visited and these were impressive. For example at Ros Cluain very good roadside landscaping and well maintained public grass areas stood out. Good luck with your TidyTowns work for 2009 and do consider the preparation of a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan or Work Programme.