

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tubber** Ref: **285**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **268**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>268</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Tubber Development Association is welcome to the 2008 competition. Many thanks for your completed application form, submission document and maps, which were most useful on the day. The photographs were particularly evocative! Have you put together a work programme? This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village and putting a time scale against their implementation. This document will prove invaluable to you as the years go by, as you can monitor your progress, which is always satisfying. It will also give the adjudicators a clearer idea of your work. You would appear to have a great interest in the fascinating history of the village and a clear idea of its significance. You would also appear to have a good relationship with Offaly County Council, particularly with respect to the National Spring Clean initiative. The help you receive from the Community Employment Scheme is obviously very beneficial to your work. The relationship you have with local businesses, farmers and garden centres is obviously very helpful also. The GAA, Foroige and Leader have also been supportive to you, which is good to note. We were pleased to hear of your participation in the Cherished Places Competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

The large St. Mancan's school looked very well and very fresh on the day. The charming church was admired but will need repainting before next year's competition as it was quite stained. The Community Centre looked well. The Cat and Baggpipes was fresh, as was the outbuilding opposite, although Christmas lights were noted at the former. We were pleased to note your work in respect of boundaries, which are too often neglected when considering a town or village's presentation. New trees were admired at the school.

### **Landscaping:**

You have created some lovely incidental landscaped spaces at the crossroads etc. The rose features at the crossroads on the Ballycumber Road and the stone bed opposite looked very well. The magnificent planting

opposite the school with its daisies and sweet williams was admired as was the one beyond the Cat and Bagpipes with its lupins and roses. The main feature was the village water pump, which looked well and it is obvious from photographs that it also looked marvellous in springtime. The award winning rose garden looked marvellous with its rose sculpture. Your floral planting for the spring and summer months sounds delightful and obviously results in a wonderful splash of colour! Have you considered permanent planting for year round effect? The planting of native trees and hedgerows would also have a marvellous impact on the village's appearance on a more permanent basis. We look forward to the proposed water feature and work at the picnic area.

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

The maintenance of bird boxes was read of with pleasure. You mention contacting your local environmental officer with regard to recycling and composting. Have you considered consulting with the local wildlife ranger regarding the habitats in the area? You could get local schoolchildren involved in a wildlife survey.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition was generally good with only a few papers being evident on the Athlone Road, and the road beyond the community centre. The proposed involvement of Foroige in your pick ups seems like an excellent idea and one that will stand to the village for future generations. The presence of signage indicating the type of litter to be placed in the bins is a good idea. We were sorry to hear of your problems with regard to litter from through traffic and hope that this situation resolves itself in the not-too distance future. Have you consulted with your local litter wardens in this regard? The recycling area was quite neat on the day.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

We were pleased to note your good relationship with and pride in the local school and look forward to hearing of their success in the Green Flag programme! You mention contacting your local environmental officer with regard to recycling and composting. And we look forward to seeing the results if your composting programme.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village generally looked neat and tidy although there were one or two rusty poles that may have held signage at some stage These should be repainted before next year's competition. You mention your weed control programme. Do you use environmentally friendly means? We look forward to the completion of the dual carriageway and feel that the planned repairs by the Council will have a positive impact on the village.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Housing stock was generally good and the timber fencing leading in from the main road to the houses in this location looked well. Some temporary fencing was noted adjacent and presumably this will be removed once construction work is complete. The attractive houses and gardens beyond the rose garden were greatly admired as were the ones beyond the Cat and Bagpipes where a new footpath was located. We were glad to know the successful completion of new houses in terms of their landscaping and boundaries.

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

The new footpath to the roadway beyond the Cat and Bagpipes was admired but the road surfaces in this area were quite rough. The roads were generally well maintained with good planting and neat verges. Work was taking place on the day on the Athlone side to the banking in this location. This road was well maintained with nice hedges and grassy verges. Do ensure that you paint gateways - there is an attractive traditional gate near the rose garden which would benefit from repainting. Hedgerows had been cut back on the Ballycumber Road. Do ensure that you consider bird nesting times when you are conducting this work. We look forward to seeing the new replacement trees and the completion of the dual carriageway to a high standard in terms of finish and landscape.

#### **General Impression:**

Tubber is located on a busy road between Tullamore and Athlone and suffers from all the problems associated with this location in addition to ongoing road works taking place. Keep up the good work.