

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nurney** Ref: **43**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **259**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	259

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Nurney to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed entry form and the 4 Year Tidy Towns Plan 2006-2008. Your committee of five people meeting from March to October on a monthly basis has done great work for the village. You enjoy good local support and the support of the relevant agencies that can help you. It is great that the School is so closely involved with your activities. The planned local history booklet is a really interesting history and the adjudicator enjoyed reading of the history of Nurney as well as your 4 Year Plan document. This is a detailed and well thought out document that is now of course out of date. It should be revised now to cover the period 2010 – 2011. The wildlife section of the Plan was of some interest.

The Built Environment:

The Church is a really beautiful and dignified building and must look spectacular when floodlit at night. At the Church, the Service hours were missing from the blank notice frame. The extended and repainted School looked really well with its new three tone colour pattern. It was a pity that the long road boundary wall together with the road was not painted (including the Tennis Court road boundary wall). Along the all of the Nurney Inn the high flower containers added yet more welcoming colour to this colourful village. The removal of the old Pump House is urgent as it appears that this building is structurally unsound.

Landscaping:

You have done great work with your comprehensive landscaping approach. The new flower beds and window boxes to be seen at so many locations gave additional real character to Nurney. The flower displays at the attractive name stones were also admired. You have decided to place an emphasis on colour in the village and the adjudicator totally agrees with this approach. The three flower containers near the cross-roads were admired as were the various other flower containers that were strategically placed. Some of the containers

needed to be treated or repainted. Opposite the Nurney Inn creative use has been made of old railway sleepers to achieve a raised landscaped bed. The use of natural materials such as wood is always so much more successful than the artificial. The larger landscaped area on the street was also admired and this is a great use of what would otherwise be an empty site or space.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two bird boxes are welcomed and the Nurney is obviously a great area for wildlife based on the lovely bird song heard during the visit. Do update your wildlife plan when the main plan is being updated and consider a wildlife survey of the Nurney area as part of your ongoing wildlife strategy.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your achievement of 'Litter Free Status' in the Litter League and is so important that you have involved the School in your litter control activities. The Bring Centre was well presented and attractively set off by the landscaping there. The litter bins were neat and tidy and seemed to have been emptied recently. Litter control was impressive on the day of the visit.

Waste Minimisation:

The leaflet drop initiative to remind households of the importance of recycling was a great idea. Next year, could you possibly enclose a copy of the leaflet please? This section is about waste reduction in Nurney. In a small village this may be difficult but look around and see if there are any further waste reduction possibilities. Recycling should then follow.

Tidiness:

The clean up at the Church gate and at the bed beside the bridge are welcomed contributions to an improved overall presentation of the village. It is suggested that in cooperation with the County Council that you arrange to paint all sign poles to an approved colour. Near the Nurney Inn the picnic seat and table needed to be treated. As indicated above, some of the timber flower containers needed to be treated. The old Pump is an important part of your heritage and it is recommended that it is painted matt black.

Residential Areas:

Some good landscaping and excellent grass areas at Hillview caught the eye. The landscaping was colourful especially at the entrance of the main road. The seats and table were also admired. The two new houses fit in well to the village and the Granite doorways are commended. Likewise last year's adjudicator, this year's adjudicator was also taken with the large houses in the core of the village. This is very like the cross roads in the centre of Slane, Co. Meath which has the four houses in place. Other houses were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the road by the School some grass needed to be cut and there appeared to be some recent cutting of hedges along here. Hedge cutting should not take place between March and August under the terms of the Wildlife Act. All the other approach roads were very impressive and the lush green verges, sometimes more like lawns, were greatly appreciated.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to visit Nurney for the first time. What an attractive village set in really beautiful countryside. Good luck with your projects for next year.