

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappagh** Ref: **446**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **260**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	23
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	260

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Cappagh to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for submitting your entry form and brief sketch map of the village. We note, the entry form could have been completed in a more thorough manner and that some of the categories are left blank, including Waste Minimisation; Residential Areas; Roads, Street and Back areas. While we understand the difficulty of attracting new members to your committee, it is important to keep up the good work carried out to date. We were pleased to note that your Community Council, with its 11 members, holds monthly meetings per year and that contact is made with the wider community via public meetings. It is good that the public continues to support your activities through fundraising events, including Auctions and Church gate collections. Your engagement with the school is positive and good to see that the school has its own enterprise small garden and plants its own tubs.

The Built Environment:

Approaching Cappagh from the Croagh direction, we observed a beautiful, thatched farmhouse with an impressive boundary wall. Congratulations to the owners of this quite magnificent traditional farmhouse. It features a brilliantly thatched roof, painted in traditional white and with green doors, and with 4 beautiful hanging baskets at the front. The Graveyard, with its wonderful display of old stone wall, approximately 2Km from the village, is an attraction in itself. The graveyard is well maintained with a good tarmac footpath. The old ruined church is a relic of times past and should be maintained and preserved. The entrance to Cappagh Castle Farm was impressive, with its long stone walls and ruins of the old castle. Stone walls around the St. James Church were in excellent condition, and the nice seated area opposite the church entrance was a nice feature. The weeds in front of this wall should be controlled better however. Weeds were also evident in some shrubbery beds inside the church. The church is otherwise excellently maintained, both inside and outside, and is a fine addition to the community. The three flagpoles outside were in a good condition, but the

prefabricated bell tower at the side of the church could do with some painting, as could the railing at the front of the church.

The Community Hall dating from 1978 was in a good condition, with 4 hanging baskets in full bloom, and window boxes over the entrance. The adjoining Cappagh Handball Club dating from 1998 also blends in well.

St. James's National School, dating back to 1866 has been well renovated and looks in excellent condition. The painting of the front wall will add to the overall positive image of the school. Opposite the school is the very impressive Cappagh Community Crèche, almost nearing completion. This will be a valuable asset to the community when opened.

The entrance to Lakeview Stud was very impressive with newly built stone walls. The Embury and Herk Methodist Church has well maintained grounds and is surrounded by beautiful stone walls. Cappagh GAA Field is in need of major renovation, and is generally very untidy.

Landscaping:

The picnic area, adjacent to the Handball Club and Community Hall, was nicely surrounded by timber fencing and gates with the rustic bench, and table in a good condition. The grass was reasonably well maintained. Some nice standard trees were planted in new beds, which add to the overall positive image of this part of Cappagh. The park litter bin needed emptying, however, in fact a new bin could be installed as this one was rusted. Four nice standard hanging baskets were situated on posts opposite the community Hall complex and deserve credit. On the school grounds, there were some nice flower tubs also

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The provision of the bird feeder and boxes within the school grounds is good to see, however, the importance of appreciating and encouraging bio-diverse environments for wildlife is growing and receiving recognition within the Tidy Towns programme, so it would be worthwhile to involve a local wildlife enthusiast or contact Limerick County Council Environment section for guidance in broadening the scope of your activities in this area.

Litter Control:

The park bin, as stated above, was full and some litter had started to spill onto the ground. The bin itself could do with replacing also, as it was rusted quite badly.

Although Cappagh is a relatively small area, it still requires an effort to keep litter at bay and on the day of our visit, we didn't notice any major pockets of litter, so well done to all concerned. In order to maintain the cleanliness of the area, it would be important to regularly link with the local school and involve the children in any clean up operations

Waste Minimisation:

There is no evidence of recycling bins in the village, or of the National School having a Green Flag; this could form the focus of future waste minimisation projects for the village.

Although a recycling bank probably wouldn't be feasible for your village, there are still many actions which can be taken to reuse, recycle and reduce waste and, if you do not already have the Race against Waste literature we would strongly recommend that you obtain copies and consider implementing suitable projects.

Tidiness:

It was a pity to see recent local and European election posters of 3 candidates still posted on a telephone pole; two weeks after the election. The approach roads were generally clean and litter free. Overall, the area was quite tidy, but a few spots required attention. The metal bell frame at the side of the Church is rusting and should be painted. Flagpoles outside the Church were in a good condition.

Residential Areas:

Some fine individual residences and farmhouses are seen on the way into the village, set in the wonderful setting of mature ash and beech trees. We were attracted to a renovated cottage painted in orange and green with nicely landscaped lawns. "Duggan's Cross" with its tidy bungalow, gardens and outhouses was impressive to the visitor. It was obvious that residents in the area have devoted time and effort in maintaining

their homes and gardens, and this has created a very attractive neighbourhood.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

One of the features of Cappagh is the abundance of stone walls in the area, which create a very nice feel to the area. While it is a big undertaking, a long term aim could be to clear the weeds and grasses to reveal these stone walls. The "Failte Go Ceapach" sign is clean and attractive, set well in nice stone with some appropriately sized planting in the wider stone bed. At the back of the sign was a nice natural stone wall, which looked well. The second "Failte Go Ceapach" sign on the other side of the village also looked well, but the flower bed in which the sign was placed needed maintaining. This road has nice mature ash trees, the hedges would benefit greatly by a trim back at the appropriate time of the year taking account of bird and other wildlife. Signs in the area were generally in a good condition.

General Impression:

The village is set in a beautiful, rural countryside and while good work is being done, we would strongly recommend that your new Committee, when formed, take on some new challenges in the areas of Wildlife/Natural Amenities and Waste Minimisation. Well done to all involved in the work to date and we wish you much success with future projects.