

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Aughagower** Ref: **503**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **288**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>288</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Aughagower Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You are an entrant of many years standing, with much experience in the competition. You have, over the years, developed a good working relationship with Mayo County Council, West Mayo Development Company Ltd and the Western Region Fisheries Board. You also appear to have a good working relationship with local schools and the local community. We read with apprehension of a large development receiving planning permission. It would be a shame if Aughagower was to lose its unique character and charm, so hopefully, if it does proceed, it will be appropriate to the scale and character of the village! Many thanks for your completed application form, supplementary documentation (photos of approach roads filled with daffodils were admired) and map, all of which were very useful on the day.

### **The Built Environment:**

The standard in this category was good on the day. Carney's Cottage was admired, as were many of the properties of the village. The church looked well and was quite fresh, apart from the tower, which appeared a little stained. We look forward to the work at the shrine and Fair Green. Commercial premises were well maintained, of note being John Keane's, Scoot's Bar and Muldoon's. Work to the stonework at the shrine and new gates at the Fairgreen are looked forward to. The various fine historical ruins and round tower in the village centre were as well maintained, as ever.

### **Landscaping:**

The various flowerbeds and landscaped spaces throughout the village were admired, especially, the shrine and waterside area. The planted stone beds on approach roads looked very well. The marvellous landscaped areas in the centre of the village, including shrine, were as well maintained as ever, with its gravelled beds and stone surrounds. The Pound area was admired with its stonework and bridge. The grotto and crucifix

were well maintained and fresh. The Famine Memorial was also beautifully presented.

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

We were pleased to hear of the completion and active use of the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail. Its inclusion in the Pride of Place Competition must be a source of great pride for you! The arrival of the family of ducks along the river is wonderful news. We were pleased to hear of your plans for further walks in the vicinity. Have you considered conducting a wildlife survey, with a view to formulating a management plan?

#### **Litter Control:**

We were pleased to hear of your participation in the National Spring Clean and Mayo County Council's litter league. Congratulations of achieving litter free status in the latter. Litter control on the day was good.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

We were pleased to hear that you use the recycling bins during your clean-ups. The achievement of Green Flag status by the schools is impressive. The fact that you visit the local schools to talk about recycling is commendable. How do you promote best practice among the commercial premises and residents of the town? We were pleased to hear of your organisation of composting workshops for local residents. Have you considered composting your cuttings from your own work? The recycling area was well maintained on the day.

#### **Tidiness:**

We were pleased to hear that you banned election posters in the village, it makes a huge difference to the appearance of towns and villages at this time, although the fact that this is beyond the control of the committees is taken into account by judges. We look forward to your future work on the graveyard gates, street lamps and seating areas. Some outbuildings should be attended to before next year, one in the village needed its roof painting in traditional red, and another was in need of whitewashing.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally well cared for. The Best Kept Garden competition is a good idea, and obviously paying dividends. Those on the Castlebar Road were particularly admired. We were also pleased to hear of ongoing maintenance at Pilgrim's Way and the Fair Green. The timber-clad houses on the Castlebar Road were a new addition since the adjudicator last visited. Are they occupied year-round or holiday homes? A marvellous garden filled with colourful rhododendrons was admired.

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

Approach roads were generally well cared for on the day and repair work to stone walling was noted and admired. Your ongoing work in this area, including grass cutting, weeding, signage, gates and street furniture is commendable. The Straheen Road was in good condition and sported attractive stone signage. This affords the visitor a magnificent view to the round tower and ruins of the village. The Castlebar Road has some attractive tree planting and timber kerbing. Lamp standards were in good condition. Reek View was well presented, with the graveyards on either side of the road, as well cared for as ever. The tubs outside the gates were colourful. Road surfaces could have been improved upon in some areas.

#### **General Impression:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had had the pleasure of visiting Aughagower and it was with delight that we discovered that the village is still as charming and well maintained as ever!