

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Cong** Ref: **558**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **226**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>226</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Cong Community Development Association is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You have a large number of people on the committee, which must be very beneficial to your work. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the Rural Social Scheme, Cong Community Council and both, Mayo and Galway County Councils. We were also pleased to hear that you liaise with the national school and local youth group. Your positive comments regarding the community's active role were read of with pleasure.

### **The Built Environment:**

The commercial premises along the streets of the village were generally well cared for on the day, of note being the Hungry Monk, Kinlough House, the Craft and Art Gallery and the Quiet Man museum. The Post Office was quite fresh, as was the Garda Station. Do ensure that the render is not removed from traditional street buildings to reveal stonework below, as they were originally intended to be plastered. This is incorrect from a conservation point of view and can also lead to problems of water penetration. The marvellous modern church by the Abbey ruins in limestone, render and patinated copper looked truly marvellous. It is a simple modern design contrasting to the ruins themselves. The interior is also very peaceful and displays fine Harry Clarke windows, as well as more modern ones. The ceiling baffles the light in the space beautifully. The stone tourist office in the old Courthouse is an attractive gothic building. The simple stone lavatories were exceptionally clean. We look forward to seeing the Community Centre complete and read of its impending planning application with interest. Pat Cohan's looked very well.

### **Landscaping:**

The simple presentation of the waterside area on Abbey Street looked marvellous. The cross monument on Main Street was simply presented. The simple landscaping of the new car park was admired, we were pleased to note the use of indigenous planting in this location. The proposed display area of local flora and

fauna is applauded.

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

We were pleased to hear of the recent wildlife survey of the woods area and its findings being used on information boards. Have you considered putting together a wildlife management plan or sowing wildflowers on approach roads?

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was quite good, given the level of visitors to the village. However, even one or two papers are all the more visible in a village of Cong's size. There was a problem at the seating area at the crossroads and at the church car park. We were pleased to hear of your participation in the Mayo County Council Litter League and wish you well in this regard.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area showed evidence of dumping on the day, unfortunately. Could a more regular pick up be organised? We noted that these are to be relocated in the new car park in time. Have you considered composting, the cuttings from your work or organising composting workshops? How do local businesses tackle the issue of recycling?

#### **Tidiness:**

The mural at the seating area at the crossroads at the abbey should be repainted up, as it looked rather neglected and flaky. Christmas decorations were evident on the gable at Spar and this looked somewhat unseasonal. We were pleased to read of your contact with the County Council regarding signage and wish you luck in this regard. Rear areas should not be neglected when considering overall presentation, some messy yard areas and weeds created a bad impression.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally well cared for on the day. Danagher's Hotel and the numerous B&B's contribute well to this category of the competition.

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

The new car park at the entrance to the village, with its incorporated pedestrian bridge, will indeed make a huge difference to volumes of traffic going through the village centre, it was in use on the day. The welcome sign at the roundabout is quite cheerful.

#### **General Impression:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had visited Cong. It is a charming village which maintains its charm, despite the huge numbers of visitors it receives daily!