

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Geesala** Ref: **1188**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **221**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Baile Slachtmhar Gaoth Sailen is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You are a committee who appear to work with many local groups and businesses. We were also pleased to hear that you have a good relationship with Mayo County Council. You appear to get a good level of practical and financial support from public bodies and private enterprise. You have made a great progress in the last two years and we wish you luck in this third year of entering the competition. The inventory of historic buildings is an excellent idea and shows an evident pride in your heritage.

The Built Environment:

Work in relation to this category of the competition is all to the good - new lighting, footpaths and stone walling will make a huge difference to giving the village a coherent appearance. Teach Lorrains looked well as did the High Chaparral. The Hall had yet to be attended to and looked in need of a fresh coat of paint. Munnelly's was also well presented. The Post Office was quite fresh, as were the Church and National School. The Health Centre also looked well. Gaughan's Bar will need repainting before next year's competition. Don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation, as they can be apparent as you travel along the street.

Landscaping:

The picnic area by the shoreline was admired. Building materials were apparent here so ,presumably, work had not been completed. We read with interest of your survey taken to identify suitable locations for tree planting, this was a logical approach to the issue. We look forward to seeing the results of the grass seeding. The wooden planters were noted at various locations and will look very colourful when in full bloom. The open space at the cross roads, with the timber sculpture set on a gravelled landscaped bed, was greatly admired and well maintained. New stone walling, planted beds and resurfacing of forecourt were noted and admired at the graveyard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We were pleased to read that you considered the fact that stone walls are habitats, when erecting them. The planting of trees and flowers native to the area is a good initiative. The erection of the bird box at the school was also a good idea. Good luck with the funding applied for in relation to the ecological study.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your participation in Mayo County Council's litter league! Your regular litter drives and Rural Social Scheme Litter Warden will, no doubt, pay dividends. Certainly, litter control was good on the day. The litter bin at the school will need replacing, as it wasn't in good condition.

Waste Minimisation:

Your work in relation to promotion of recycling and waste minimization amongst residents and the school is good. You don't mention local businesses and their work in relation to this category of the competition. Do you promote composting also? You could contact the Local Council in relation to organising composting workshops. Do you compost the cuttings from your own work? The encouragement of the school to participate in the Green Flag Programme is laudable.

Tidiness:

Work in relation to weed control and footpath brushing is all to the good. Good luck with the future under-grounding of ESB cables, this will cause a certain amount of disruption, as the work takes place. Do ensure that building materials are removed once work is completed, some pipes etc., had been abandoned at the new housing estate on the Bangor Erris Road, and at the Doohama side of the village. An abandoned cottage near the church looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

We were pleased to hear that local residents were kept aware of the village enhancement plan and your other work. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your efforts in relation to painting schemes for those properties in need of work. The housing estate on the Bangor Erris Road was well maintained and sported some attractive tree planting. Individual houses were generally well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were quite good on the day, particularly the Bangor Erris Road and we were pleased to hear that you work in conjunction with Mayo County Council in relation to this. We look forward to seeing the final results of the complete street lighting and footpath scheme, the work in this regard so far has made a huge difference. The plans for the entrances to the village are also looked forward to. The Doohoma Road was quite overgrown, the Slow through the Village sign was almost obscured by overgrowth. However, the wild rhododendrons and wild daisies made a strong impression.

General Impression:

We appreciate your comments in relation to work delayed due to the economy and would reassure you that the village has made great strides in the last number of years. It is set in the most spectacular of scenery. We wish you all the best with your future work.