

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Louisburgh** Ref: **564**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **246**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>246</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Louisburgh Tidy Towns Committee is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. The work you have done with Mayo Community Futures on your action plan was laudable, as was participation in the preparation of the village design statement. These are sensible documents and made for interesting reading. Green Warrior sounds like an interesting programme! You would appear to get a high level of support from the local community, to judge from your application form. You would also appear to have a good working relationship with local businesses, Mayo County Council, the Rural Social Scheme, Mayo County Futures and the Community Futures Steering Group and local schools.

### **The Built Environment:**

We were pleased to hear of improvements made to the town square and upgrading of street furniture. The town square is most interesting and unusual, as the buildings turn and address the crossroads. St Catherine's Church and Heritage Centre looked well on the day. Work in relation to derelict buildings with Mayo County Council is laudable, we were interested to hear that many of the sites had planning permission. The new development of Riverside Court is a bold and modern design, it looked well on the day. Rear areas adjacent to it, by the riverside area, look a little neglected and should be considered in overall presentation. The restoration of the waterfront was read of with interest. The schools were well presented on the day, although the boundary wall will need painting before next year. The Catholic Church looked well on the bend in the road and had attractive grounds. The Post Office looked well in pebbledash and Jasmine's was admired. The Trading Post looked well, as did the Derrylehane and Keane's. The GAA grounds were admired for its new stone wall. The Health Centre was quite fresh. Gaffney's is an attractive traditional shopfront. The Westview Hotel was admired, but the nearby supermarket appeared to be deserted. The Fire Station is quite charming and should be painted up, as should Louisburgh Hall.

**Landscaping:**

We were pleased to hear of your receipt of a grant for native hedging. Floral displays of hanging baskets and tubs were admired throughout the town. The tree survey was an interesting idea. The new picnic tables were also a good project. The Scott's Island area is an attractive landscaped area. The planted area by the riverside looked most attractive on the day, as did the associated park with its attractive mounded grass feature. The grotto was simply presented. Attractive planting was noted at Nomadic Displays.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We were pleased to hear that the local secondary school students had provided bird and bat boxes. The erection of coastal erosion barriers was read of with interest. We look forward to your future work with the schools in relation to a wildlife survey.

**Litter Control:**

We read with interest of your discussions regarding litter collection from holiday homes. This is an excellent initiative. You would appear to have very frequent litter pick ups, even a daily one by the local school! The Green Warriors project was read of with interest. Provision of new litter bins and the analysis of existing litter bin locations is an excellent initiative. Participation in the Mayo County Council Litter League is commendable.

**Waste Minimisation:**

We were pleased to hear that the local National School is working towards its third Green Flag and that the secondary school is working towards its first. You would certainly seem to get a high level of support from the schools in this area of the competition. The provision of segregated bins at the beaches is an excellent idea. We wish you luck in your attempts to get a recycling area.

**Tidiness:**

Work by the art students of the secondary school in painting the windows of derelict buildings was read of with interest. We were pleased to hear of your attention to weed control issues. However, some were apparent at kerbsides on the Westport side of the town. A tin roofed ruined shed, adjacent to the bridge, created a negative impression.

**Residential Areas:**

Work in relation to ensuring new estates have a stone boundary wall were read of with interest. The holiday homes were generally well cared for and the playground area in this location was admired. We note your comments in relation to absent householders and are amazed to see how well these areas are looking considering this fact. Good luck with your work in making contact with these people and gaining their help. The new estate on the Westport Road was admired with its dry stone walling and striking modern design in stone and render. An attractive house opposite the Westview Hotel was admired for its attractive window boxes of geraniums.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

We were pleased to hear of the undergrounding of cables. We were interested to hear of your participation in the design and planning of a new bridge and viewing area. Do discourage advertising hoardings, as they can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. The large stone to be inscribed with the town name was noted and admired on the Westport approach, where relatively new trees were coming along well. The bridge did not appear to have been painted yet, though we noted from your application that you have plans to do so. Road works were apparent on the far side of the town. In terms of street furniture, the new lamp standards were admired.

**General Impression:**

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Louisburgh and it was reassuring to see how well it is being cared for. It has a magnificent setting and continues to retain its character despite much development in recent years.