

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Polranny** Ref: **1829**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **217**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	217

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the annotated map, which was most useful on the day of visit. There was no plan included in your entry. Do please try to include this in future entries.

The Built Environment:

The Social Welfare office would benefit from a coat of paint. The planters here were good. The Courthouse is sporting a nice paint job and the back areas of this building look good too. The Garda Station is looking very sharp, but the bed at the front should be planted. The ESB office was also freshly painted, weed-free and had planted tubs. Sweeney's was looking similarly good and the old-style lettering was admired here. The GAA grounds look well and the dressing rooms were freshly painted. Ostan Oileann Acla looks nice, but more effect could be achieved by landscaping the grounds a little better.

Landscaping:

Davitt Park looked well, but there was poor use of weedkiller behind the stand. It would look nicer if this were landscaped. The entrance to Scoil Damhnait could be made to look nicer. The gateposts, for example could be better finished. The college grounds are lovely, if a little bare. Some more tree-planting here might help. The plinth and planter at the town sign here is very effective. The wall is very nicely done here and makes a great impact on the way into the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your entry did not give any information on projects carried out in this section. You did mention a plan to engage a wildlife expert to carry out an assessment of the area. It is suggested that you contact the local

Conservation ranger of the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice in this area. Other possible projects could be: creation of new habitat with butterfly or bird areas, crection and maintenance of bird boxes, wading bird counts by a local birdwatcher. You could also contact groups, such as Birdwatch Ireland or the Irish Wildlife Trust for advice.

Litter Control:

Well done on your achievements in the anti-litter league competition. It is easy to see why your attention to this aspect of the competition has paid off. Almost no litter was seen on day of visit.

Waste Minimisation:

Where is the bring centre? It wasn't indicated on your map. Focus on ways of minimising waste in your community. Composting for households is a good place to start. Contact your environmental awareness officer for advice in this area.

Tidiness:

The repeated motif on the planted tubs is very good. The Fáilte go h-Achail sign was freshly-painted. The litterbins were clean and well-painted. The railings on the wall were also painted.

Residential Areas:

A very high standard of maintenance and planting was seen in the gardens of houses within the village. Well done to these residents. The house beside the hotel was painted as suggested by last year's adjudicator. Well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to the village from the Mulranny side is really excellent and speaks clearly of the care being devoted to the area. The white-painted concrete railings really look well. The bridge is of very modern design, but looks great from both approaches.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit this village and a very good impression was received. There is very clearly a good level of co-operation with residents and businesses to have the streetscape looking so good. A football match was being played on the day of visit ,but still no litter marred the road. Well done to all involved and it is hoped that you will continue to improve in this competition.