

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **The Neale** Ref: **796**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **260**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	260

Overall Development Approach:

The Neale Heritage and Development Committee is welcome to the 2009 Competition, in your 9th year of entry. 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 Neale GAA, the Community Hall Committee, Leader and Mayo County Council etc. We were also pleased to hear that you communicate with the national school through meetings with the principal. Your three year plan seems most sensible and we read it with interest. You would appear to have many festivals and activity days throughout the year. The function to thank those who supported you throughout the year is a lovely idea.

The Built Environment:

Work in relation to re-flooring the centrally located ball alley, painting the back wall of the community hall and weed control at pavements are all to the good. The stone church with its marvellous grotto looked very well on the day. Commercial properties such as the shop, petrol station and restaurant were all well presented, although the triangular directional sign for the latter appeared damaged and should be replaced. We look forward to seeing the results of your work in relation to the bilingual signage for the heritage trail and the new path between the village pump and the Cong junction. We were sorry to hear of your problems regarding certain properties and the archaeological dig, and hope that these issues are resolved in the not too distant future! Gibbon's Thatched Pub was quite charming and well presented. Be sure not to remove the render, to reveal stone work below, from traditional houses that were meant to be plastered. This is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but can lead to problems of water penetration. The hall looked well. Discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with signs of a more traditional timber variety. The ruined church makes a spectacular backdrop to the village.

Landscaping:

The simple presentation of the monument at the crossroads, with its billowing flags and picnic tables, was admired. There are a number of incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village, which were well maintained. The work to the long stone garden is commendable, as was re-seeding the grass verge on the Kilmaine Road. Future plans, such as the planting of mature trees following the completion of the sewage works, are looked forward to, as are plans for the entrances to the village. Floral tubs throughout the village made a cheerful display. The faillte signs were admired at the entrances to the village. The planted bed to the front of the information board was admired, near the church.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The erection of nesting boxes is an excellent initiative. We look forward to seeing the progress of the wildlife reserve and wildflower meadow. The photography competition is an excellent idea.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was good. We were delighted to hear of your participation in Mayo County Council Litter League and the achievement of runner up position for the last three years, having litter free status for the last nine years, which is an excellent achievement. We look forward to the purchase of new signage and litter bins. The daily and weekly litter patrols are obviously having effect.

Waste Minimisation:

The clean up of the recycling area was a good initiative. Contacting Repak to discuss possible projects is a good idea. Having a rain water reservoir to water plants is a marvellous idea. Segregation of waste into colour coded bags is also a good idea. The proposed projects regarding composting and electrical equipment bring day are both excellent ideas.

Tidiness:

The provision of a designated notice board is an excellent idea. We were pleased to hear of your work regarding washing of signage, maintenance of litter bins and weed control. The undergrounding of cables will make a big difference to the village's appearance. We noted that a cottage on the Cong side of the village had been boarded up and painted.

Residential Areas:

Houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally well cared for on the day. The idea of a best presented house competition is a good idea. Asking householders to monitor litter outside their houses is commendable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road works were taking place on the day, making this category difficult to judge under the circumstances. The speed checks are a good idea, as people do Speed along the road through the village. We look forward to seeing your progress regarding new footpaths and verges, once work is complete. New lamp standards were admired. Signage was very clean on the day.

General Impression:

It was the first time that this adjudicator had visited the Neale, and it made a good impression. Good luck with your future work.