

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tooreen** Ref: **633**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **220**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	220

Overall Development Approach:

Tooreen Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You have a good working relationship with the Community Group, Ladies Group, Mayo County Council and the Pastoral Council. The Provision of a RRS worker must be very helpful to your work. Your work with the schools is also important. You have a positive attitude to the competition, which is always pleasing to hear.

The Built Environment:

The commercial properties of the village looked well. In terms of public buildings, the post office was very fresh, and the school was well presented. The church looked well with its detached bell and tower. The landscaping here was admired, the tarmac was neatly laid with the stone wall surround, but perhaps additional landscaping could be considered, such as trees and planting to soften it. We look forward to seeing the results of your work at the hall. Frayne's Bar was in need of attention on the day. Henry's Shopright was in good condition. The old hall looks marvellous in cream with red and grey trims.

Landscaping:

The new hedging at the basketball court will look well when it matures, as will the grass verge along the road front at the community pitch. This area looked well cared for on the day. We note your plans to plant more bedding plants and, while it is true that these will provide more colour, it is also important to plant permanent planting to give year round effect. The High Cross and its associated flowerbeds looked well and the landscaping at the car park by the basketball courts is very effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note plans for a wildflower garden at the basketball courts and look forward to seeing this mature, it will

indeed be useful for the school in its curriculum. The survey on bird migration and nesting sounds interesting - certainly, the swallows were very active on the day! The local nature walks are a good idea, as are the wildlife information boards, which we look forward to seeing in time.

Litter Control:

We were pleased to hear that you participate in the Mayo County Council Litter League. It's always good to get feedback and to see how you compare with other towns and villages in your locality. The standard on the day was good and the standard of litter bins was also high. The retention of the more traditional one at the basketball courts is laudable. Plans to involve the school children, liaise with businesses and advertise your regular clean ups are all good ones.

Waste Minimisation:

We were pleased to hear that the school achieved Green Flag status. The ongoing use of the bottle banks is laudable. They were well presented and neat on the day. Do you promote recycling within the community as a whole? Do you compost your own cuttings etc? Do you plan any composting workshops for the local community?

Tidiness:

We were pleased to hear of your work regarding cleaning of kerbs and pavements.

Residential Areas:

The houses and gardens of the village were generally well cared for on the day. We were pleased to note the paving being completed around the housing estate. Do you plan to have any garden competition? The houses in the vicinity of Frayne's looked a little neglected. Ave Maria Nursing Home was well presented and the nearby house in white with red painted trims looked most cheerful. The houses behind the basketball courts were well maintained with attractive gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We were pleased to hear that you succeeded in getting unused posts removed by Mayo County Council. The new nameplates were noted and admired. Planting to them looked well. The verges were reasonable on the day, but a little inconsistent in standard. That on the Ballyhaunis side was to a higher standard. The trees on the upper road behind the basketball court were maturing nicely.

General Impression:

It was the first time this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Tooreen and it was impressive to see how well its is being cared for.