

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tydavnet** Ref: **614**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the detailed entry form, accompanying map and supplemental material, including plan for 2009 and photo collection which chronicles your work to date. The committee's continuing links with Monaghan County Council, FAS and particularly the active involvement from local businesses and school children are important facets of the Tidy Towns' spirit, and has helped the Village to make steady progress in the competition over the last number of years. Being involved in the novel "Second Eye Project", where you were teamed up with another village in the County, is a big plus as it allows for the sharing of ideas, but also keeps that bit of competitive spirit intact. It would be worth considering putting together a new basic 3 Year Plan with action items, assigned personnel and a time scale for completion of individual projects. This could replace the 2009 version, which for the most part is now completed, and allow the Committee to set targets that can be built upon year on year. Tydavnet has very good potential to move up the rankings in the County and it is important to seize that opportunity now and put structure in place that will achieve this objective.

The Built Environment:

The Tydavnet Story Monument occupies a key location in the village and was in sterling condition on adjudication day. The School appeared tidy and the murals depicting St. Dymphna's association with the village are an interesting feature. The Church holds a commanding position and was in very neat condition on the day, all ready for a local wedding. Can the Committee arrange to have the script on the stone slab on the church perimeter wall reetched to make it more readable for the casual visitor who wants to know more about the Village's history. The Village possesses an excellent new community centre, which would be the envy of the majority of similar sized villages in the country. The Building and adjacent grounds were in pristine condition and the place was a hive of youthful activity on the day in question. The XL shop was nice and bright, and was complemented by the planting arrangements at the front of the premises, plus the fact that

parking area was extremely tidy. Jack's Place, a focal point of the village, is very in keeping with the surrounding village streetscape, the Rock Inn was also presented to a very acceptable standard. The area immediately outside the Old Graveyard sign was slightly untidy with a stray traffic bollard obscuring the sign itself and some loose bricks and rubble on the inside of the wall, the plans for this area are duly noted from the submission. The family names board in the old graveyard is a valuable historical resource, especially for any one from overseas with Tydavnet roots and it might be better placed at the immediate entrance to graveyard, as distinct from where it is at present. The public seating and information signs on Sliabh Beagh and Tydavnet Wildlife were in excellent condition. The Village streetscape is helped very much by the quality of the road surface, footpaths that extend out from the centre to the extremities, appropriate street lighting and the absence of unsightly overhead wires. One notes from your application that there is a certain level of frustration because there is an uncertainty about the completion of some projects in this category because of the economic downturn. It may be small consolation, but many other areas are in a similar position.

Landscaping:

The supply of flower baskets and planters at village name signs, outside key building such as Jacks and the Church and at the main junction is to be commended. Each one appeared fresh and flowers were in bloom adding colour and evidence of the effective effort on the part of the local Tidy Towns volunteers. Hanging baskets, with the old faithfuls begonias and petunias, were well cared for and placed at pertinent locations in the village. The plants and shrubs at the Wishing Well Project are impressive and they complement the clean stone wall. This project is a fine example of how a simple approach can have a very positive effect. The tidy beds of flowers running along the cobbled stretch of path are also very tasteful and yet another touch that makes a difference. These aspects work well with the elegant street lamps and the already mentioned well maintained signs to form an overall consistent and fresh appearance. Just be aware that shrub beds need constant attention, as they can get congested very quickly. Overall, the standard was very good and of course there were a number of fine private gardens, one in particular just up from the Community Hall, that were very well maintained and presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comment in the application form suggests that you think there is limited scope for the development of additional wildlife projects. I would disagree, as there are many and varied wildlife habitats in and around the village, all it needs is for some local wildlife enthusiast to help you identify them and to help you come up with a project idea. The school garden is an invaluable link with the local school and its pupils, is it possible to have this expanded a little to accommodate additional wildlife inducing plants. The 'Tydavnet Wildlife' sign is a nice information piece to have particularly within the school area. The small nature area with bird house is charming and occupies a prominent location that is ideal for the preservation of wildlife and that can be easily accessed by the local population and visitor alike. The Wishing Well feature is a fine addition to the village's nature portfolio. The plans for a conservation area in Jack's garden are eagerly anticipated and it is also good to note that you have plans to plant a number of mature trees in an area near church, trees are an essential part of any village or urban landscape.

Litter Control:

There was very little evidence of litter on adjudication day apart from a slight scattering on the Clogher road heading out of Tydavnet. The Committee has succeeded in getting the young and old population to support them in their quest to apply best practice when it comes to litter control. The erecting of new anti-litter signs on the approach roads in to the village is an example of the type of support measures that help to create awareness in the minds of both the local population and visitors to the village. Overall, a good standard was achieved in this category and this earns the Village an increase of an additional mark since last year.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Bank facility, which is well managed and very accessible, is in an ideal location in the grounds of the Community Centre. The community are fortunate to have such a facility, which I presume serves the immediate area, as well as the village. Last year's report suggested a few ideas for additional projects and the Committee has acted on these by engaging with the County Environmental Officer to come and talk to both teachers and pupils from the School about project ideas relative to the whole Race Against Waste programme. This type of proactive approach is what is needed to help educate the younger generation and indeed the old on the importance of waste minimisation as a contributor to a better environment.

Tidiness:

Tydavnet portrays a very consistent tidy image, the committee is aware that there are outstanding issues with the unfinished housing development in the centre of the village - a sign of the times. Hopefully, these will be resolved to the satisfaction of all in a short period of time. The core area of the village was quite clean and uncluttered and the owners of both commercial premises and private homesteads deserve special mention for the manner in which frontages, boundary walls and most importantly side areas were kept. The extra touches such as cobble stoned path, shrubbery, water pump, ubiquitous flower basins/baskets and seating benches all contribute to a pretty and tidy Tydavnet.

Residential Areas:

The development at Cnoc Na Greine has fallen victim to the recession in that it is only half complete and it's impossible to predict when work will recommence. Overall, the standard in this category was very good with most, if not all, homeowners playing their part by presenting homesteads to a very acceptable standard. What was very noticeable was the good condition of the majority of side entrances and boundary walls. The variation and mix of colour on properties was accentuated on what was a very fine summer's day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Monaghan approach was very neat with verges trimmed and hedges suitably cut back. The GEEL twinning sign is housed in a very distinctive stone bed of annuals. The approaches into Tydavnet from Clogher and Scotstown were in excellent condition, with warning and name signs clearly visible. Likewise the condition of the entrance in from Emyvale was very good.

General Impression:

It was an enjoyable experience traversing through Tydavnet and identifying the various points of interest such as the story monument, nature garden and old graveyard. The village was fresh in appearance, tidy and welcoming on the day of adjudication. From the submission document and adjudication, it is evident that significant work has been undertaken to ensure that Tydavnet retains its high standing in the competition. The potential to go farther in the competition is very evident and the committee should strive earnestly to exploit this and aim for a top three spot in the County ratings.