

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Banada Tourlestrane** Ref: **539**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **222**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Banada Development Agency appear to have a good relationship with the local housing association, schools and Sligo County Council. Many thanks for your completed application form and map which were very useful on the day. Perhaps the map could include the Tourlestrane area next year. Have you a small work programme that you could also include? It would appear to be a large committee given the size of the villages, and hold frequent meetings, which must be to your benefit! You would appear to have a positive approach to the competition, which is always reassuring to hear.

The Built Environment:

This category of the competition was to a consistent standard. The charming church of St Attracta at Tourlestrane was fresh with peaceful and well maintained grounds. The Border Collie was reasonably well presented, although its boundary wall was in need of some attention. The Primary Care Centre and grounds looked as well as ever. Mullarkey's had been freshly painted. The school and community centre were both freshly presented.

Landscaping:

The marvellous Peace Park and Primary Care Centre grounds are a tribute to your hard work and make Banada-Tourlestrane a memorable experience. The graveyard is quite charming and as attractive as ever. The new planting along the riverbank was noted and admired for its use of native plants. The rear wall of the Peace Park is flaking and should be attended to before next year's competition. Have you any plans for the Ball Alley? It would benefit from some attention. The attractive planted pots on the bridge were admired. The pansies, nasturtiums, petunias and marigolds at the church made a cheerful display. The pansies and ash trees opposite the Peace Park were coming along well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The duck and pigeon feeders are an excellent idea. The nature trail is a marvellous asset to have on your doorstep and we read with interest of your plans to extend it to four converging walks with centre feature. Cheerful yellow bog irises were noted to a field beside the Peace Park.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category could have been better on the day, given the size of the villages. The litter bin at the Peace Park was overflowing and the litter bin at the church was quite full also. Perhaps a more frequent emptying is required? We look forward to seeing the new litter bins.

Waste Minimisation:

Your segregation of litter from your pick-ups is a good idea. The bottle bank at Tourlestrane was well presented and we look forward to seeing your future work in this location. Some white goods in this area appeared to be waiting for collection.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was quite good although some weeds were apparent opposite the Peace Park and to the forecourt area of the GAA park. A temporary structure seemed to be propping up the phone box by the Border Collie. The painting out of graffiti is a good initiative, just be careful that it looks neat when complete. That on the Banada side of Tourlestrane being an example of this, as looked a little patchy. Spraying of weeds is a good idea, are you using an eco-friendly weed killer?

Residential Areas:

The individual houses along roadsides were generally well maintained although a number of traditional vernacular houses appeared to have been abandoned and would benefit from a sensitive restoration to their former glory, one example being opposite the Border Collie. The housing estate at the bottle banks was well presented and appeared to be in the process of extension on the day. The window boxes to Aras Na hAbhainn made a colourful display.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

You have a long area to maintain between the two villages. The welcome sign on the Tobercurry side of the village is attractive and welcoming. Some of the signage on this side of the villages appeared quite grubby. The slow through the village sign at Tourlestrane was virtually obscured by overgrowth.

General Impression:

It is always a pleasure to visit the peaceful twin villages of Banada-Tourlestrane and witness the ongoing hard work and effort that make it such a special place. Well done to all concerned.