

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tubbercurry** Ref: **721**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **211**
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Tobercurry TidyTowns is welcome to the 2009 competition. You have a small committee given the size of the town - would it be possible to recruit more members? You would appear to have a good relationship with Sligo County Council, FAS, Rural Social Scheme, Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club and local schools. It was mentioned in last year's report that you might consider drawing up a work programme to rationalise your plans. This document need only be a few pages long outlining your plans for the town and setting a time frame against achieving these objectives. It would prove to be a valuable document to help you see your progress as the years go by. We note your comments regarding a local area plan and hope that this will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. We look forward to seeing progress in relation to the old railway track and gates.

The Built Environment:

The buildings in the centre of the town were reasonably well cared for on the day, although some, like the building at the junction of Wolfe Tone Square and Humbert Street were quite neglected. The car showrooms beside Texaco appears to have shut down. Do discourage curved canopies and encourage their replacement with more traditional fabric awnings. St Attracta's Community School and grounds looked magnificent on the day and the unusual Church of Ireland with its stone tower set off the street was admired. The Fire Station was in reasonable condition, although the empty sites opposite looked unfortunate. The North Connaught Centre was quite fresh. The grounds of Basta created a good impression. The Garda Station was quite fresh. The Bank of Ireland and AIB were in good condition. The King's Inn was well presented. The library is very modern in stone. St Bridget's Hall looked somewhat flaky.

Landscaping:

Wolfe Tone Square is a marvellous facility to have right in the centre of the town. It's silhouettes of a traditional band and dancing children was admired. The planting is maturing nicely and the trees will be truly magnificent

when they reach maturity. We note your plans for this area and hope that the grant from the Leader programme is forthcoming. This adjudicator seems to remember plans for a statue of General Humbert last time they visited the town. Has this idea been abandoned? The photos you enclosed of your planting in spring were admired. Planting along the ring road was coming along nicely on the day. The creeper clad walls of the GAA grounds are maturing nicely and give an attractive greeting to visitors to this area. Attractive planting was also noted to the front area of the Health Centre and by the Recycling area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We noted your plans for this category of the competition in conjunction with Transition Year and Leaving Cert students next year. What format will this take - are they drawing up a wildlife survey, creating wildlife habitats, erecting bird/bat boxes?

Litter Control:

The standard in this category could have been better on the day - quite a lot of litter was evident in the vicinity of Wolfe Tone Square and a little at the Community School - indeed, plastic bags appeared to have been abandoned in the centre of the square. More litter was apparent on the Ballymote approach.

Waste Minimisation:

Your work in relation to the promotion of composting is a good idea. The energy saving day was a good initiative. What other means do you use to promote the ideas of recycling and composting? The recycling centre was well presented on the day, although some bags appeared to have been abandoned here. The new bins for segregation of your litter pick ups will be a great asset to you. We were pleased to hear you had attended the National Tidy Towns Conference in Westport.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category could be better. There would appear to be a number of abandoned premises within the town boundary. The appearance of entrance ways and back areas along the ring road was also unappealing. One gateway had erected hanging baskets which looked very cheerful but was in stark contrast to the many neglected looking rear areas in this vicinity. The forecourt area of the large new development on the Ballymote Road looked somewhat neglected, although the landscaped area with daises etc. to the front looked very well. Some industrial premises - including the old co-op building on the Ballina Road could be screened from public view. Connaught Gold and Garden Centre was well presented in contrast. Weed control was a problem to kerbsides this area. The rough open space opposite the community school created a bad impression.

Residential Areas:

The individual houses and housing estates of Tobercurry appeared somewhat inconsistent on the day. Some houses along approach roads appeared to have been abandoned. Some of the boundary walls along the Ballina Road were freshly painted. The stone entranceways to new estates such as Coille Dara and Whitethorn Place were admired, although some tree planting to the former location would be recommended. Cnoc na Si was also admired and well presented. Pine Grove B&B had an attractive garden with bright red poppies.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach road from Ballymote was reasonably well cared for on the day. The Ballina approach was good as far as the Community School and then deteriorated somewhat. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, although the planting on the ring road was admired, the rear areas along this roadway look quite unfortunate, for the most part. Directional signage could have been better presented - some on the Ballymote Road were quite grubby on the day as were some junction signs on the Ballina Road. Do discourage advertising hoardings as they can give a rather cluttered appearance to approach roads. Road surfaces were somewhat rough on the day. Trees along the Ballina Road were maturing well. Relatively new street nameplates were admired. We note your problems with traffic management in this busy town and hope it will be resolved before too long.

General Impression:

Tobercurry is a busy working town with much character and appeal. It continues to progress in the competition and we wish you well in drumming up additional support.

