

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Drangan** Ref: **598**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **252**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Drangan TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your comprehensive submission and for the supporting literature, which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of the appearance of Drangan and to the enhancement of the quality of life in Drangan. Thank you for the map and, especially for highlighting what must be seen. The photographs are a good illustration of 'Mná ag Obair'. The other photos were helpful in identifying sites that must be seen. The overall impression one gets of Drangan is the enthusiasm with which the TidyTowns event is undertaken. Enthusiasm drips from the pages of the submission. That enthusiasm is expressed in the meticulous care that is evident on the main street. The enthusiasm for TidyTowns must be infectious with a committee of 19. Well done. This adjudicator must admit that the map, as laid out, was difficult to follow and so would suggest a simple hand drawn map for 2010.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of Drangan illustrates the history of the village over the past few generations. The influence of the Church, the esteem given to education, the role of the GAA, the place of the pub, the demise of the small shop and some bigger businesses, the central position of the water pump, the passing of families out of the village leaving houses unoccupied, the arrival of new families bringing modern building styles, the importance of electricity, but with cables scarring the skyline and the importance of the local garage to the services in the village, are all part that built environment. What is heartening in the case of Drangan is the fightback of the local shop. O'Hallorans is not just a fine building that adorns the street, but also a centre of social activity. All along the main street buildings are well maintained and colourful. The Archway is most attractive. Dash is used throughout, with great effect. The entrances to the cemetery are lovely features of the street. Railings are a noteworthy feature. Looking up and down the street from the Church, one is taken by the pretty picture. The school, the playground and the tennis courts look resplendent. The conservation of your

heritage buildings is given priority, as is illustrated by the condition of the old school. The arched entrances are especially noteworthy. Fr Hennessy's influence from 1947 onwards is obvious and worthwhile. Can anything be done with the disused petrol pumps?

Landscaping:

Every effort is made to bring summer colour to Drangan. Roses are the signature for this time of year. The co-operation of the villagers in enhancing the appearance of Drangan is evident in the tubs of bedding, plants and miniature trees, and the hanging baskets all along the street. The shrine will soon be aglow with the colours of summer. The school and its environs, with its open space and tubs of flowers, look cared for and beautiful. The raised bed at the big yellow disused creamery softens the gable end attractively. There is an opportunity to hide the high wall at the Enterprise site by planting pyracantha or maybe a clematis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the activities undertaken at present. One feels that this is a section that holds much potential for Drang, as there must be wildlife habitats throughout the area. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. There is need for a plan with immediate targets, medium term plans and long term aspirations.

Litter Control:

Bins abound and they are doing their duty on the main street. There is a problem with litter though in the area of the junction, near the monument and in others locations mentioned under other sections. Your engagement with the school in the matter of litter is progressive and necessary. As some of the litter encountered could also have been from adult sources, the school pupils need to be encouraged to bring the anti-litter message home. A litter survey could be very helpful.

Waste Minimisation:

It is great to see that your Bring Bank is being used and well maintained. Well done on the work being done in the school. It does not seem that the school has Green Flag Status. This is a project you might pursue with the school authorities. Last year's report asked how the importance of waste minimisation is communicated to households.

Tidiness:

So much work has been done to bring Drangan to a high standard of prettiness that any evidence of lack of tidiness is a shame. Your attention is brought to the following items. If the opportunity to bury the cables in the village arises, grasp it. It is a pity that weeds along the kerb are not knocked on the head. The area around the Enterprise sites needs your attention, as weeds and some graffiti are evident. Pressure on the County Council to maintain road surface is needed, for example on the Killenaule Road. The Community Centre needs a power wash.

Residential Areas:

Private houses make every effort to make Drangan a pleasant experience for the passer by and local alike. New houses are a signal that Drangan's future is guaranteed. Be careful with the open space at the housing estate, off mainstreet. The new estate on the Killenaule Road is developing well. It is promising that the cables have been placed underground. The estate on the Urlingford Road has great potential. Ensure that all of the estates are christened with individual name stone signs.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village of Drangan deserves better name signs. Express a welcome on your sign that befits the enthusiasm of your submission, that mirrors the floral decoration of mainstreet and that reflects the welcome, one experiences in O'Halloran's shop. In fact, when approaching from Fethard the village had an unkempt appearance. Make sure that the signs on the road are kept clean. There is a fine footpath on the on the Killnaule approach road, but there is a problem with litter. The GAA field on this road is most attractive, with its timber gates and fencing.

General Impression:

The enthusiasm for participation in the Tidy Towns Competition really impresses the adjudicator. Drangan could be any other rural village, were it not for the devotion that this competition stimulates in the Tidy Towns group. The impression one gets on a visit is that this village is cared for, the decisions that impact on the village are debated, improvements are welcomed. May your participation continue to enhance village life.