

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bodyke** Ref: **1791**
County: **Clare** Mark: **203**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	19
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	6
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	203

Overall Development Approach:

We are delighted to welcome Bodyke to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition, after a gap of 22 years, and we hope that this will be the start of a long and enjoyable association with the competition for many years to come. Thank you for submitting your entry form and sketch map of the area.

It is good to note that you have 4 committee members, linking with the school Management Board and that you have the benefit of a local FAS scheme in the village. The use of occasional newsletters to communicate with the community is good but we would also suggest regular public meetings to discuss Tidy Towns issues and other matters of importance to the village.

For future entries we strongly recommend that you fully complete the application form because it is the ideal opportunity to draw the adjudicator's attention to issues or work which you want to highlight. Under the following sections of the adjudication report, we hope you will find some helpful and encouraging ideas.

In order to make significant progress within the Tidy Towns Competition, a plan based over 3 to 5 years would be advisable and we strongly recommend that you consider this option. It wouldn't need to be prepared by a professional, it can be prepared by your own committee but views should be sought from the local community. Any plan should take into account existing plans for the area such as a County Council Local Area Plan. Ideally it should clearly explain what you are trying to achieve each year, the approach planned and indicative costs for each project, any supporting agencies and an indication of the lead partner.

The Built Environment:

The national school, built in 1881, was an attractive introduction to Bodyke from the Limerick approach and we were pleased to notice a Green Flag proudly displayed. The school and its grounds were in fairly good condition although the school building would benefit from touch up to the peeling section of paint. The Church and graveyard were beautifully presented with well prepared flowerbeds, neatly cut grass and very inviting wrought iron bench under the tower. Several people were working in the grounds and also sweeping the Ennis Road during our visit so well done to all involved.

Businesses which looked well included the Cobbler's Rest Pub with its hanging baskets, picnic tables and a rather unusual 'Beer' sign on its petrol pump, Essence Beauty Salon, the Village House B&B and Malone's Supermarket and Petrol Station.

It would be good if something could be done about the derelict building prominently located at the start of the Ennis Road. The roadside building with the rusting corrugated roof at the Old Quarry was also detracting from the Clonmoher Road approach.

Landscaping:

Throughout the village we observed some beautiful floral displays and we were particularly impressed by the lovely walled shrubbery, colourful plants in containers, neatly cut grass, maturing trees and little fencing near the Limerick Road junction. We found the Bodyke Evictions Commemorative Stone poignant and thought provoking.

The village pump was well presented, surrounded by neat bedding plants in the stone wall and the nearby picnic table and benches with parasol were very inviting. Indeed, tired visitors to Bodyke were offered many tempting resting places including seating built into the stone wall near the pump and a little black and white bench near the Ennis/Tulla sign.

There were some very attractive floral displays throughout the village including colourful hanging baskets opposite the Church and a fine selection of bedding plants in containers at numerous locations. The little walled shrubbery located opposite the Ennis Road was appealing. The plants in all locations were healthy and obviously receiving regular attention. Congratulations to all involved in the planting and maintenance work.

Don't forget to consider suitable winter plants to replace the summer bedding plants so that Bodyke will continue to provide a colourful welcome all year round.

We would suggest that a few more locations could be considered for future displays. The Old Quarry site could look impressive if the rusting corrugated sections were cleaned and perhaps a neat shrubbery or planted containers were placed outside. Perhaps hanging baskets could be used to add some colour near the low stone wall beside the School. Although it is outside the boundary of the village, some colourful planting outside the wall at the East Clare Golf Club turn on the Scariff Road could create an attractive first impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In order to progress in this category you should try to identify a suitable location within the village where native trees and shrubs could be planted to provide a suitable food chain which would encourage wildlife. Your planned re-instatement of the Mass Walk may well provide the ideal opportunity and you should seek the advice of a wildlife expert or enthusiast, the County Council may be able to help with contact names.

This could be an ideal project category for the local school children to gain valuable experience. The children, under the guidance of a teacher, could help by organising a survey of any existing habitats and wildlife in the area and the results could then be used to decide what plants and facilities need to be provided. Your interaction with the local school is crucial to ensure that the children, future guardians of our environment, learn to respect and love that environment from an early age.

If a survey is conducted, the information obtained could be used to create helpful information panels which could be displayed at suitable sites within the selected area.

Litter Control:

During our visit the main street and approach roads from Scariff, Limerick and Ennis were generally litter free. Businesses operating in those areas had clean and tidy forecourts. Unfortunately, there was considerable litter outside the Old Quarry and at the opposite side of the road. It would be helpful if regular litter patrols were organised in that area.

This category is not only marked on the absence of litter during an inspection but it also includes the planning process for litter control. Additional marks can be achieved by submitting a Litter Control Plan as part of the entry submission. Areas to be considered under such a plan would include a survey of problem areas, key litter generators, number and locations of litter bins and schedule of litter collections. It should also include details of litter patrols (eg involvement by residents, school children or FÁS workers and frequency of patrols). Suggestions for resolution of problems, clear targets as the plan is rolled out and a clear method of monitoring progress should also be included.

Waste Minimisation:

The Race Against Waste is growing in importance and everyone has a vital role to play in this area. The success of your national school in achieving a Green Flag is a wonderful example for the rest of the community.

The key aim under this category is to reduce waste and reuse or recycle where possible and there are many projects which could be undertaken to achieve this goal, for example:

- A waste audit could be carried out – advice and suggestions are available in the Race against Waste booklet, which can be obtained from the Tidy Towns Unit
- Individual households could be encouraged to compost grass cuttings and leaves
- Waste collected during your litter picks/clean up sessions could be segregated
- Leaflets with advice on waste minimisation could be circulated to homes and businesses
- A waste minimisation workshop could be organised, with the involvement of the County Council, and this could take place as part of a public Tidy Towns Meeting

Tidiness:

Traffic flow through the village was quite busy and included some heavy lorries during our visit. It can be difficult for a small village to manage this type of traffic throughput but Bodyke seems to be coping fairly well. Footpaths were in fairly good condition and generally clear of weeds.

Directional and tourism signs, including the bilingual Bodyke signs, were generally clean and in good condition but a T junction sign on the Scariff approach was slightly damaged and the post needed to be painted. An 80Km sign as you leave on the Ennis Road and the bilingual Bodyke sign on the same road were slightly obscured by vegetation and it would be important to check signs regularly to ensure that they remain clearly visible.

It was a pity that the green An Post letterbox located near Malone's was sandwiched between two badly rusted metal poles. This prominent location could be enhanced if the poles were painted.

Opposite the Church we noted an overgrown site, however, building work seemed to be in progress and hopefully this site will be landscaped as part of the development. We look forward to seeing the finished project on a future visit.

Residential Areas:

Homes throughout Bodyke were generally very well presented with nicely landscaped gardens, hanging baskets and planted containers. We noticed many appealing properties during our visit including Realt na Mara in its central location at the Limerick Road junction, several attractive and well painted bungalows on the Scariff approach, the Village House B&B, two newly built houses nearby with good stone boundary walls and a lovely cream farmhouse with mature trees and landscaped gardens on the Clonmoher Road

Beechwood Estate was an attractive small development with well maintained houses and a lovely display of colourful gardens which were a credit to the residents.

While one or two boundary walls in the village needed to be re-painted, the overall impression was fairly good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads from Scariff, Limerick and Ennis were in reasonable condition but the Clonmoher Road had some bad potholes near the Old Quarry and at the entrance to the Beechwood Estate. It can be difficult for Local Authorities to maintain roads in these cash strapped days, however, your Committee can

play a vital role by maintaining regular contact with the County Council to ensure that problem areas are brought to its attention and are not overlooked.

Road signs around the village were appropriate and generally in good condition but it is important to check regularly that signs are not being hidden by shrubs and that the signs and supporting posts remain clean.

General Impression:

Bodyke is a lovely small village which has to cope with considerable traffic passing through it, however, it still manages to maintain a charming and welcoming feel.

A good start has been made under the Tidy Towns Competition this year and there is great scope for progress under all the adjudication categories. The important thing to remember is that everyone in the Community can play a part and should be encouraged to participate. Regular meetings throughout the year would ensure that everyone is kept informed of activities and are given an opportunity to suggest projects or improvements and indeed, to volunteer their services.

Congratulations on all your work so far and good luck for the future in Tidy Towns.