

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Puckane** Ref: **848**
County: **Tipperary(North)** Mark: **252**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2009 and thank you for your completed entry forms. In a changing environment for Puckane, the provision of a Three Year Programme, setting out your objectives, is an important, indeed critically important exercise at the present time.

The GAA ground and premises were outstanding in their presentation, it is noted that the 'Rent an Irish Cottage' programme has closed temporary and their properties are currently on the market for sale. In order to assist the adjudicator to accurately describe locations, please insure a map of the village is included with next year's entry.

The Built Environment:

The fine and very well presented Church is visually important, as it closes the view on the approach to the village. Slattery's Garage was very well presented, while the Village Store and Kenny's Bar were both looking colourful and bright. The blue and yellow coloured School looked well while the entrance gates do need to be wire brushed, repaired and painted.

Landscaping:

The Grotto is a fine piece of public art, but was unhappily marred by many discarded bottles. The Pump caught the eye presented in its crisp black and white delivery. The incidental raised flowerbeds looked well, while the planting and grassed area at the end of Clun Derg was neat and orderly. The Tennis Courts were presented in an exemplary manner, while the approaching avenue featured a splendid display of fine mature trees. A mature tree was also noted with pleasure opposite the Church.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The birds nesting boxes located at the cottages are an investment in the future. Perhaps an area of the School grounds might be set aside as a nature reserve. Many educational advantages accrue to the establishment of such a facility within the schools. It can and often does lead to a life long appreciation for bird and wildlife.

Litter Control:

Litter bins of a suitable design were strategically located throughout Puckane. In general, litter control was very apparent. However, there was a surprising lapse in and around the Grotto area and at the village pump. These areas might with advantage be targeted during your clean up evenings.

Waste Minimisation:

We commend the School for undertaking the Green Flag programme and wish it success in securing that status. Waste minimisation is increasingly recognised as a critical objective for us all. Consider holding an information evening in the village at which techniques to reduce dependence on expensive and scarce energy sources, home composting and other aspects can be considered.

Tidiness:

The red painted surrounds of the sign providing details of local items of interest need to be repainted and the missing protective Perspex replaced. Spoil was noted at the base of a number of front facing walls and at the pump an amount of shale on the ground detracted, while one of the cap stones is missing. Excellent work has been done to ensure that base of wall, roadsides and kerbs remain free from weeds.

Residential Areas:

Cuan Derg area was pleasant and very well presented. A number of houses here made most meritorious efforts. The house located below the Catholic Church has made an exemplary effort with window boxes and planters. Pat's Cottage and Peg's Cottage caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads generally were very well presented; signage was clean and readable, although some of the speed limit signs were being obscured. Village name plates looked very fine. The overarching trees joining overhead gave a delightful sense of enclosure. The road surface is quite poor at the lower end of the village. One of the speed limit signs is obscured almost completely, while the other would benefit from washing. The village name plate here was neat and clean. The speed limit signs painted on the road surfaces have worn out and require to be repainted.

General Impression:

Puckane is a delightful village, full of atmosphere and interesting structures. It is to be hoped that the 'Rent an Irish Cottage' programme can be reactivated. Despite your difficulties, the committee and the community are responding positively and continuing to ensure that the village is well presented to visitors to the benefit of them and the residents alike.