

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Clarinbridge** Ref: **186**
County: **Galway** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 42 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 38 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 30 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 28 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 6 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 28 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 263 |

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome back to the competition after a break of three years. To your credit you have maintained your interest and involvement in the village, which looked well on adjudication day. We thank you for your submission and list of current and planned projects. Like almost all villages the face of Clarenbridge is changing rapidly. We notice a good deal of development work in all parts of the village. We would welcome information on how you will deal with the new developments and what plans you have for the next three to five years. Forward planning is all important in achieving high marks in the competition.

The Built Environment:

You have many fine buildings and many still providing poignant links with the past. We notice you are now down to just a few thatched roofs and these are worthy of preservation. The church dominates the village and is very well presented. An adjudicator's delight is always to encounter a green flag and we commend the national school on this achievement. The school itself is well presented. It is also one of the very few rural national schools with a good car parking discipline: not without reason of course! We liked the shops on Main Street and some have retained their traditional character. We note the Hotel Oyster Manor is undergoing refurbishment and we look forward to an improved presentation in 2007. We suggest you arrange a bilingual signage programme to indicate the various names of the streets and other areas of importance. This would be of benefit to locals and visitors alike.

Landscaping:

You are endowed with magnificent mature trees, an attractive river and some lovely parkland. The hand of the landlord in the 19th century continues to benefit the environment today. Your work of previous years continues

to enhance and in particular the area around the cemetery. The cemetery entrance is superb and we notice flowers were being watered on an evening and morning inspection, so well done. The riverside landscaping with nest of flags is excellent and provides an impressive introduction to the village centre. The extensive grass cutting at Paddy Burkes is commendable and is a valuable amenity, complete with river walk extending to the sea. The village green is a valuable local asset but should be a show-piece in presentation. It has all the ingredients of environmental excellence: attractive mature and young trees (although we notice one chestnut has been vandalised) and an impressive Celtic cross in the centre. Just two suggestions for 2007: paint the seating and clean up the cross to include repainting the inscription.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunity to raise your marks here. You should consider some illustrated wildlife display boards that would give information on the local birdlife in particular. Locating these near the sea at the end of the walk would be ideal. There were several species of wild birds in evidence during an evening inspection. The national school might embark on a project similar to what was done at Abbey.

Litter Control:

Apart from some litter papers and a few bottles under one of the seats in the village green the village was almost litter free. This is praiseworthy in such a busy village. Some litter bins need painting: you should do this work yourselves.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category aimed at minimising waste. The green flag concept fits in well to this concept and we are acknowledging the work of the school by awarding you some marks in this category. For next year you might consider a community compost project or other project aimed at minimisation of waste.

Tidiness:

You have a number of derelict buildings and one in particular on the RHS approach from Oranmore. Current developments works will not look well until finished. The large car park at the GAA complex is in need of improvement. The club house itself is well presented and the entrance was admired.

Residential Areas:

Housing standards are high and some individuals excel. The houses opposite the cemetery side wall are excellent. A couple of house on the adjoining estate need attention. We visited Stradbally North where there is quite a mix of different shapes and sizes of houses in ribbon development formation: not the best of planning we fear. Our visit to The Brothers of Charity was rewarding and we commend all concerned for such an excellent display of parklands, complete with a plethora of mature trees. The maintenance here is significant and Kilcuan is very well presented. We acknowledge this high standard of presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your biggest single problem is traffic, continuous traffic and all that that implies. No doubt it beyond the scope of a Tidy Towns committee to tackle this problem, but some kind of traffic calming is necessary: pity the poor pedestrian, and not visitor-friendly either.

General Impression:

For this adjudicator making a first-ever inspection to this centre it was an enjoyable visit to an area with such a variety of environmental attractions. We are glad to see you back in the competition because you have potential to be a high scorer. We have also taken cognisance of your nominations for special awards. Good luck for 2007 and don't forget your development plan.