Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg**	Ref:	**1057**
County:	**Tipperary(North)**	Mark:	**253**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**25/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	**400**	**253**

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Inch Tidy Village Committee for your entry on behalf of Inch Bouladuff Ragg village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to your Committee of ten people involved in TidyTowns activities in Inch Bouladuff Ragg. You are all obviously dedicated community people who take the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings in addition to other TidyTowns activities. Your Committee is doing so very worthwhile work for Inch Bouladuff Ragg, a village with a population of less than 200 people.

Thanks also for Village Street map, an absolute necessity for such a spread out area.

Well done on the ongoing contact with the national school and well done to the school on their involvement in recycling and the Green Flag award.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment. From your entry I expected to hear a little more on your partner organisations.

A recommendation of this adjudicator is the preparation of a very brief three-year TidyTowns plan for Inch Bouladuff Ragg which would help your Committee highlight the issues and agree on the targets and objectives to be achieved up to say 2011. Keep it simple and agree a list of bullet points of the key targets and timescales with the obvious focus on 2009 activities.

As part of the three-year plan and to help Inch Bouladuff Ragg compare its performance in TidyTowns competitions a recommendation to consider is a visit to other towns that are high performers in the 2007 and 2008 national competition.

Great to read that the TidyTowns competition keeps people involved and helps generate a good community spirit towards village life.

I wish you all the best with your Tidy Town activities into the future.

The Built Environment:

Situated between Thurles and Nenagh the village encounters heavy traffic on a daily basis. This has an impact on roadside developments including landscaping, properly maintained grassed areas, and commercial and residential developments. To date the village seems to be coping well in its development of residential areas, commercial and leisure developments.

Overall the village looked well and welcoming on the day of my visit. Due to its physical make-up the impact of the built environment is not as obvious in Inch Bouladuff Ragg. However, those buildings that impressed this adjudicator included:
-Inch Primary School, with its lovely well landscaped rockery and the Green Flag flying proudly overhead. Some planted window boxes added to the scene. However I thought the tower was in some need of painting. The 2005 extension to the School is a super facility.
-Younge's Ragg Bar and Lounge, exterior nice and clean with some lovely display of planted hanging baskets in summer colour.
-Bouladuff House, lovely two storey residence again some nice colourful display of flowers.
-The Catholic Church is an excellent building with well-laid out grounds and parking area. The use of EU Programme to develop the excellent walls, landscaped area and car parking was worthwhile. The wonderful stained glass on the door is a work of art. Well done.
-The Drum and Inch GAA has a huge positive influence on the life of the area, its clubhouse and grounds are a central part of the village and are clean and well maintained, some outside flower beds could be better planted. Congratulations on the four clubmen who played for Tipperary in the recent Munster Final. And maybe the All-Ireland?
-Moloney's Filling station and Shop was colourful.
-The caring attention paid to the maintenance of both the ancient and the modern cemeteries is to be applauded. Both were in excellent condition, well maintained and the stone signs are an informative feature. The Reilig Mhicil Naofa 1962 sign and the wooden seat are well done. The Reilig na h-Inse and the historic notes on the stone sign complement the Millennium Grotto
-The historic trends continue with the stonesigns on the bridges, I liked the signs for Droighead Ghortanna/ the Annfield Bridge1806 and the sign for An Cromoig Droichead Mhoin Rua 1805
-A highlight of my day in the village was my short visit to the magnificent Inch House. This is set amongst beautiful mature trees and farmland and away from the noise of passing traffic. The golden crops in the adjoining fields added to this peaceful and delightful place. The stone entrance and its six stone-planted flower containers will be further enhanced when the gatelodge restoration is complete. Inch House itself is magnificent. This Georgian house dates back to 1720 and is now a Country House and Restaurant. Congratulations to the owner family on its wonderful condition.

Also there are some excellent individual houses throughout Inch Bouladuff Ragg. The Forge Cottage looked lovely. Well done. The wonderful countryside overlooked all.

Landscaping:

Well done on the landscaping and floral displays at the individual houses in the village. The common landscaped areas demands much grass cutting to retain the good condition of these roadside beds. Credit to those involved in this maintenance. The stone surround flowerbeds also were in excellent condition with many colourful displays of summer annuals. These areas continue the excellence of their condition, which won the 1995 National Tree awards and the 2000 and 2001 Tiobraid Arann Alainn awards.

The landscaping at the school, at the Church and at both Cemeteries looked very well.

The mature lawns and landscaped areas in the grounds of Inch House are excellent.

Areas that would benefit from further landscaping include the grass margins on the village approach roads, the area at the rear of the Ragg, and the front of the Inch Community Centre.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in their individual premises.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are few if any Wildlife Interpretative Signs and Display Panels on display in the village. Consider contact with the Heritage Council on this project. Further involve the schoolchildren. The sign at the entrance to the Golden Mile area is in need of some improvement. The benchmark is the number of excellent stonesigns already mentioned elsewhere in this report. The treasure I found at the bridge at the end of the Golden Mile was the nesting swans in the growth of the riverbed. A beautiful sight to see the family of five swans, two adults and three young ones.

Litter Control:

Inch Bouladuff Ragg village and surrounds were mainly clear of litter on the day of my visit. Well done on the involvement with the Schools on anti –litter campaigns, including the award of the Green flag. The regular cleanup sessions are paying dividends. The energy and commitment of the parents, teachers, staff and pupils involved is to be applauded and praised. Well done on your good work. A few more LitterBins would be recommended.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events,

The further involvement of the school in these waste minimisation activities is to be congratulated. Well done again on your Green Flag.

I failed to notice any Recycling bins in the village area during my visit. Maybe I missed them?

Tidiness:

In general, Inch Bouladuff Ragg residential areas deserve credit for their own areas of responsibility and for maintaining a tidy image for the village. The approach road from Borrisoleigh needed some tidying up in relation to grassed areas.

Signposts in the village need to be clean and well maintained. Some fail to meet an acceptable standard.

Residential Areas:

Most private residences throughout Inch Bouladuff Ragg are in a very good condition, well presented houses and lovely landscaping and gardens.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.
Well done to all residents for the great effort.

The formation of a separate Community Association at Clohessy Place will be of assistance in the ongoing improvements of the village. A recommendation is to maintain contact with their progress.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping, good tree planting, some excellent display of planted hanging baskets in full bloom, which all combines to create a lovely atmosphere in the village area. Well done on all the work to maintain the various landscaped areas.

General Impression:

Congratulations to Inch Bouladuff Ragg on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns. Credit to your Committee and for your efforts on behalf of the village. Much excellent work is ongoing in the village. Despite the traffic Inch Bouladuff Ragg is blessed with its wonderful natural environment.

I look forward to further visits to your lovely village. The Golden Mile is a lovely area. Inch House is magnificent. Well done on the progress of the various projects.