

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TAGHSHINNY**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	21	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	15	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	154	--

Tagshinny, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tagshinny is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition. New entrants are always a pleasure to adjudicate and Tagshinny was a particular pleasure given the very high standard of presentation that has already been achieved. Well done on the support you have had from the Longford Community Resources Ltd. You should contact the County Council and have signposts erected from the main roads, it was very difficult to find the village as it is not well signposted. The adjudicator came from the Carrickboy direction and there was not one signpost anywhere along that stretch. The village has an attractive layout with a gentle rise in the road in the centre of the village which serves to open up a view of the village. A nice old church in the heart of the village is appealing and the entrance is enhanced by green open space. It is important to prepare a three to five year development plan for the village and to forward a summary of this with your application.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The school looks superb and its boundary is to the highest standard, well done. The pub at the Mullingar end will need to be painted soon to freshen its appearance. The farm outbuildings and gable end of a house across from the church might also be whitewashed or clothed in a climbing plant. The pub across from the church looks quite well. The church looks well also together with its grounds. Discourage the use of plastic neon beer signs in favour of more modern signage.

LANDSCAPING

Performance is good under this heading. There is a fine stand of mature trees on the Ballymahon entrance as well. When choosing trees / shrubs make a choice in favour of those which will encourage wildlife. Remember that a greater emphasis should be placed on permanent planting rather than seasonal flower displays.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The hedgerow at the Ballymahon end of the village which has trees planted in front of it could be managed for wildlife. The goose grass should be removed as it is quite invasive and a species count taken to identify species of flora and also insects, birds and other small animals that benefit from the hedgerow. Consult the Conservation Volunteers of Ireland or other experts on hedgerow management.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good. It is important to note litter weak spots e.g. around shops, pubs, schools etc. and to place bins in these areas. Frequent clean-ups / sweepings are also an important part of a litter management strategy. Marks earned under this heading are awarded for a planned approach to litter control and not just for the absence of litter on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

The derelict buildings at the green near the church are substantial. The house itself has some excellent features, hopefully when these are developed they will be developed in a sensitive manner that complements the character of the village. They don't create too much of a problem under this heading but none the less, it is good to see that their window and door apertures are neatly boarded. Pay less attention to side and back areas which are visible from the public road and be vigilant regarding weed growth along kerbs and at the base of walls.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Single storey dwellings are well presented, well painted and flower / shrub displays are attractive and enhance their environment. Houses on approach roads are well presented also. Residential properties are judged in respect of their gardens, side and back areas, roadside boundary walls and areas immediately outside of these as well as the premises itself.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Mullingar entrance to the village is beautifully presented with well maintained grass verges, newly planted trees and good road signs. Stone walls on the Ballymahon entrance look superb, especially the dry stone wall. Stone wall building is still in progress as is evidenced by stones in the village centre and building materials. New stretches of footpath near the church have been noted. Try to have service cables ducted and feature street lighting on attractive lamp standards.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Taghshinny is an attractive village with potential to do very well in the competition. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas and guidance on how to proceed further in the competition.