

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **St Mullins-Carlow**

Ref: **220**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	
The Built Environment	40	27	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	
Litter Control	40	22	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	211	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of so many organisations for your efforts: - Carlow County Council, local businesses, Angling Club, Local Community Development Scheme, Heritage Services, Inland Waterways and many others. Your written submission and the three year plan are excellent as is your development approach. The secret of success is to try to do a certain amount each year within your physical and financial resources. Do not try to do too much as sometimes lack of achievement can lead to frustration. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

The Built Environment:

St Mullins is well endowed with many fine building and attractions: - Heritage Centre, Graveyard, Motte, and the Holy Well, all of which are being well maintained. The Pump and Monument were also nicely presented on adjudication day as indeed were many of the nice stonewalls which are a feature of St Mullins. Your comments regarding derelict sites were noted and hopefully with the aid of Carlow County Council and the Heritage Service this situation will improve in time. Allowing for the number of derelict buildings - the Quayside is a lovely feature and could be developed even further.

Landscaping:

In reading through your three year plan the cutting of grass appears prominently in it. This is not surprising considering the amount of open spaces which St Mullins has. This alone is a major undertaking and in circumstances, these spaces looked well on adjudication day. Flowers and shrubs, where presented, are being well maintained and in this connection the special displays in the kart and boat are very nice. Street furniture by way of picnic tables etc also looks well but probably could do with a coat of creasote. On adjudication day the containers did not appear to have been planted; but possibly this will be done at a later stage. The worn pathway at the Motte looks somewhat unsightly. If it is accepted that people are going to climb to the top perhaps some type of staircase should be provided to overcome this problem. It is a very historic site and for that reason the fabric of the mound should be preserved.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted. Hopefully your plans will come to fruition in the autumn. In the meantime you will continue to receive the same mark as last year.

Litter Control:

As against last year St Mullins was practically litter free on adjudication day. Excellent work is obviously being done by your Local Community Employment Scheme and indeed your local residents which is a reflection on their interest in the preservation of their environment. Congratulations to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The centre of the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner, and again, well done to all concerned. There was a certain level of untidiness however in the area of the public toilets, probably associated with the building work which is going on there, but which nevertheless, in such an important area, looked unsightly. The Quay area looked somewhat rough and this is not helped by the state of the surface.

Residential Areas:

Houses in the village are being well maintained and, in many cases, had nice gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which created a nice ambience.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces generally are in good condition. As already mentioned the open area at the Quayside looks bad. It is appreciated that flooding is a major cause of this which will be an ongoing problem but hopefully can be solved on a year to year basis. Approach roads, in general, were well presented. Bear in mind that adjudication normally takes place either between the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs whichever you opt for. You should try therefore to trim these areas as best you can bearing in mind the comments in the Tidy Town Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers.

General Impression:

As the adjudicator said last year "St Mullins is a very interesting and enjoyable place to visit". Your planning approach is very good. While you are particularly blessed with many open spaces and historic sites, the maintenance of these however is a major task, but one which you appear to be coping with very well. While additional initiatives and improvements are very desirable,

maintenance is also absolutely important and, in this context, keep up the good work.