

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullow**

Ref: **308**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **227**

Category: **C**

Date: **17/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	224

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. Your plans and documentation made very interesting reading and obviously a tremendous amount is being undertaken and indeed, in some cases, achieved and this reflects great credit on all concerned. Tullow is now reaching a comparatively high mark in the competition. Future success will depend on careful planning and attention to detail and, in this connection, it is gratifying to read that you have great support from Carlow County Council, FÁS, BNS LEADER and local sponsorship and, from what was seen on adjudication day, the support of the vast majority of your community. For the future try to identify what you can achieve on a year-to-year basis within your physical and financial resources. Do not try to do too much as failure can sometimes 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:

Tullow is a very substantial centre and has many fine buildings. Your public buildings: - Schools, Parish Centre, Churches, Court House, Museum and monuments were again well presented. However the area of the 1798 Monument on the Bunclody Road is somewhat rough and could do with some attention. Some dereliction is still with you and your comments in this regard have been noted. Indeed it would appear that excellent work is being done in conjunction with your Local

Authority to solve this problem. Stonewalls, where presented, also looked well and are being well maintained. Most commercial premises looked well. Some do need a coat of paint. The larger industrial premises on the outskirts of the town are being well kept but open storage can be somewhat unsightly. Perhaps, as part of a landscaping plan some help and advice can be given to them on screening.

Landscaping:

Work done under this heading was to be seen everywhere in Tullow. Wonderful work has been done in the vicinity of the river on the Castledermot Road, at the bridge, in the vicinity of Pairc Mhuire, at the Hillbrook Estate, in the new car parking area by the river in the centre of the town and indeed many other places too numerous to mention. The landscaping at Mount Wolseley Village is outstanding. Tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes, where presented, also looked extremely well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments in this respect have been noted. The wildlife board on the riverbank is a nice facility. Do however try to initiate a wildlife project. Perhaps something simple with your schools such as feeding tables, nesting boxes and indeed some more wildlife boards might be a start. Perhaps there is somebody in your locality who is knowledgeable on this subject. Please do also consult with Duchas. In the meantime you will continue to receive the same mark as last year.

Litter Control:

The centre of the town was practically litter free. There was however some evidence of minor littering in side streets and in one or two of the housing estates. This is an important aspect of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

There is a good deal of building going on in Tullow at the moment. This leads to untidiness but this will pass. In this respect an allowance has been made this year. There were several instances of on-footpath displays which looked somewhat untidy and could present a hazard for the shortsighted. Try to discourage this if you can. Generally speaking the town was presented in a neat and tidy manner and reflects greatly the interest which your business community and residents have in their environment. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

Houses and gardens are being well maintained. Some houses have lovely gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day and were a joy to see. Most of the housing estates were visited and the adjudicator particularly admired Hillbrook Estate, Pairc Mhuire, Hawthorn Drive, Court Lawns and Bellwood Drive. All however reached a very nice standard and in most cases are keeping their open spaces very well. The thatched house opposite the Abbey Bar is lovely. This individual effort is very important in the competition. You cannot succeed without it. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are being well maintained as are indeed footpaths. Approach roads also looked well, particularly where they were landscaped. Adjudication normally takes places within the speed limit signs on each road or the town nameplate, whichever you opt for. It would be important therefore to see that the grass verges are strimmed on a regular basis bearing in mind the comments in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers. There is a tendency for approach roads to set the tone for the rest of the town.

General Impression:

Tullow is improving by leaps and bounds and evidence of this was to be seen on adjudication day. It will take a time but diligent work and attention to detail will produce results over the next few years.