

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Spink**

Ref: **110**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182	181

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. The details of work completed along with your 5 five year plan provide a context within which you improve not only the presentation of your village but also the community's lifestyle.

The Built Environment:

Headons Spink Bar looks striking in its strong colours and is well presented with decorative floral displays. The footpath to the Church looks quite well, although there is evidence of cut grass remains. The Church grounds are cleanly presented with a tidy tarmac area. Within the grounds is an attractive grotto and inside the roadside wall a bed of shrubs. The Church is nicely painted with brown timber doors.

The school is presented to a high standard, the lawn is cut and generally there are flower boxes, freshly painted walls and weed free tarmac. It is nice to see sapling trees in school grounds. Knock Community Hall looks fine. There is weed in the car park.

The remains of the demolished building opposite Headons have yet to be removed.

The sports field and its changing rooms look very well.

Landscaping:

The Carlow Road picnic amenity is well maintained with a low fence and the new beech hedge frontage looks very well indeed. The planter with colourful flowers and village name sign impressed. It is good to see work being done on the series of three bridges to clean and make weed free. The outhouse walls on the opposite side of the road adjacent to the Spink Bar should be repainted. Well done on your planting of trees at the entrance to the sports field.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a well signposted 10 mile walk which starts close to the back of the Church. There is an outstanding variety of mature trees and hedges which provide excellent wildlife habitat. The walk offers both scenic and wildlife exploration activity. The small triangular wildlife area opposite the Church road is excellent. Particularly in this year of Special Olympics, it is nice to see the continuation of walking recreation for the visually impaired and support for the Finwey Farm with its animal assisted therapy for children with special physical and social needs.

Litter Control:

There was little evidence of litter on adjudication day and your clean up programme is producing results.

Tidiness:

The Glanbia Yard has an aesthetic difficulty associated with its security needs. Never the less the llandii trees do work and the commitment to more sensitive fencing will help. The GAA Ground looks well and is generally well maintained. There is some dead weed at the bottom of the perimeter fencing. It is nice to see recycling bins. It is noted that it is planned to screen the storage area for road surfacing materials on the Carlow side with trees.

Residential Areas:

Spinks residential properties are individual detached houses and one small row of houses along the Carlow road. Most are well presented with roadside frontages well maintained. The house above the school has a very attractive garden with its display of colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The introduction to Spink from the Carlow side is excellent. The Spink Village sign is well displayed against a white background on a planter of blossoms. The County Council road surface storage area is reasonably well screened with a grass bank which in turn could be maintained to a higher level. Cutting of verges has been undertaken.

General Impression:

Spink is an interesting village with its range of interests and activities somewhat spread over the outlying area. The work of the Tidy Towns Committee continues to improve its presentation.