

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullinalaghta**

Ref: **202**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **161**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	161	157

Overall Developmental Approach:

Mullinalaghta is a long village and if Derrycassan wood is also taken into account , it stretches for several miles. There is a need to have a linkage between the village - whether it is a commonly used tree/ shrub or plant that ties the village together may be a possibility. There is a need to draw up a development plan for the village with objectives set out for the next five years. It will give a focus to your work and also give a sense of satisfaction when jobs completed can be ticked off. The information sign is good and useful for visiting motorists.

The Built Environment:

Both Keoghs and the Anglers were reasonable. Perhaps they should be painted one colour. The derelict barn behind Keoghs needed attention. The village shop was fine. The school looked well - there was a nicely landscaped area out the front though this needed weeding. The Community Centre requires repainting of its guttering. The graveyard was well kept - the derelict cottage beside it is a problem. There was work being undertaken at the Post Office. The Church and grounds looked well though the church gates needed a touch of paint. Mulligans shop would benefit from some greenery. Pairc Naomh Columba was weedy outside and a coat of paint was required. A dead tree required removal and the corrugated roof required repairing..

Landscaping:

The hedges had been recently cut back and - though this did look neat, the judges remember a time when they were not cut back and there was a profusion of wildflowers such as honeysuckle and roses. Management of hedges is required and, there are some good specimens of wild flower and shrubs which readily grow and these should be encouraged if possible. The chain link fence down by the graveyard was well kept and made a good impact. The landscaping in front of the school was very nice - try and keep to the use of native species even in containers as this is a very rural village. The black planters make a good impact and the trees opposite the Post Office will look well as they mature.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Derrycasson wood is a fine amenity. There were some nice stands of foxgloves at the entrance. It was noted that the project was LEADER funded - well done in your involvement. Perhaps signposting from the village might be considered as you have now made it your own. Other projects to encourage wildlife might be the feeding/survey of local birds - see Birdwatch Ireland

Litter Control:

The litter situation was generally good though there were a few pieces at the GAA pitch. Do you have a litter campaign operating through the school? Litter awareness should be part of your development programme.

Tidiness:

For the length of the village, the general air was one of tidiness. Gravel required removal from the area opposite the graveyard - however work may be in progress.

Residential Areas:

The houses along the village were reasonably well kept and some of the gardens looked well - well done. The use and integration of native species should be considered even in gardens as there is a great number of species which we sometimes overlook as 'weeds'

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The lead in to the village from both sides was good and there was a nice welcome. Some of the planting did need weeding though. Consideration should be given to the use of ground cover plants and to mulching to eliminate the need for weeding frequently which is especially required at this time of year.

General Impression:

There is evidence of pride in the village - though it is difficult to see the centre of the village due to the length. Develop and plan - identify your strengths and weaknesses and plan to tackle the problem areas over the next few years - best of luck.