

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Taghshinny**

Ref: **594**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **165**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>160</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application. This small village needs a development plan to give it a focus and direction in future years. The village is pleasant and a number of newer developments were noted such as the tree planting and new signage on the Ballymahon road.

### The Built Environment:

The village is dominated by the church which was very well kept. The two pubs are the other main buildings - one had been newly painted though the other needed some attention with weeds noted growing in its gutters. There were old petrol pumps seen in front to one of the pubs - what is the future of these? The school was excellent - it had well painted railings. Is the green flag outside indicative of its status - there is an initiative operated by An Taisce which is called the Green Schools Initiative and it is invaluable for encouraging children to appreciate and work with their environment.

### Landscaping:

There were some nice planters featuring herbaceous plants in the village. The new heathers were noted. The judges are not too enamoured with the use of Cordylines in a very rural setting as their leaf structure tends to be more suitable to an urban or seaside environment. A landscaping plan is required - that which will incorporate and blend in with the rural landscape. The use of wildflowers

in pockets should be considered for example.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The stream area was very neat and tidy - there was some nice planting along the upper wall at its access area. Do ensure such plants as ferns are encouraged in their natural environment here as they are native and will require less maintenance - wild bluebells in the spring would also look very attractive.

A plan to encourage wildlife - birds and animals as well as manage the surrounding habitats needs to be drawn up. Organisations such as ENFO, Birdwatch Ireland and Irish Peatland Conservation Council would have information that will help you advance in the area ( see their web sites or library). Local school children should also be encouraged to take part in surveys or projects.

### **Litter Control:**

There were a couple of pieces of litter in the village on the day of adjudication and no bins were noted. However it could be said that no bins encourages people to take litter home with them, if there is a process by which you can implement a regular emptying of bins, a few should be sited in strategic locations throughout the village e.g. outside the school.

### **Tidiness:**

Some fly posting was noted throughout the village - this can be difficult to tackle. Weedy areas in the gutters in places did detract from the overall tidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

It was good to see the old school for sale - new owners may refurbish it - hopefully without using PVC windows which do nothing to enhance any building. There is a derelict house in the main square which needed attention. Some of the front walls on the houses on the Ballymahon road also needed attention. The cream colour house with the red door was very pleasant though the corrugated roofing adjacent to it is very obvious - is there any way that this can be shielded or repainted?

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Ballymahon road was well cut back further out - trees of a similar species would enhance this stretch. Honeysuckle in full bloom was noted coming through the hedges which was very pleasant. The Colehill road, which was dominated by the coniferous trees looked well though there is also scope for other deciduous trees here, closer to the road to tie the village together. This will occur if the same species is used.

### **General Impression:**

The village looked well though attention to detail is required. A plan setting out future objectives and goals for the village will give a sense of direction to all involved - good luck with it.