

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlingford**

Ref: **25**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **225**

Category: **C**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	20
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>221</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition which contained a very well completed Entry Form and a Town Map. There was no three-year Programme of Development. The Adjudicator would look for this in next year's submission. These documents are of great help to the Adjudicator in seeing the work being done and it should also be of benefit to the Committee in monitoring their yearly programme. The Committee is to be congratulated on their work with the County Council, FÁS and other statutory and non-statutory bodies, the many local community groups and the pupils of the schools, though they were not mentioned. It is very important to continue this liaison with the various groups mentioned above as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee.

### The Built Environment:

Carlingford is a heritage town which is both an honour and a maker of more work for the Committee. It is category C in population. It is a very pleasant seaside village. The seafront road is dominated by the Taaffe Castle, a wonderful stone structure. However, it needs some attention to the weeds growing on the walls. It would be very important to contact the O.P.W. to see would they undertake this cleaning. Beside the Castle the tourist office, toilets, car parking, village green and picnic facilities make a very interesting and well maintained grouping. Above the seafront road are three other parallel roads, very narrow and all most interesting. Tholsel Street is pedestrian with stone walls to the houses, stone paving and lovely shops. Window boxes and hanging floral baskets

add a wonderful splash of colour and contrast to the many white walls. The Carlingford Adventure Centre is part of this street. Most of the houses and other buildings look extremely fine, such as Teach Cúirte, the Church, Garda Station, as well as the many restaurants and pubs. A charming mixture of buildings. The marina is a wonderful facility.

### **Landscaping:**

The most striking element coming into the village is the cascade of valerian flowing down a stone wall. It is most striking and hopefully it will not be removed. The seafront road makes the village truly seaside, with only a low stone wall between the road and the beach. There are many very excellent gardens, all facing outwards towards the sea, with their care and attention to detail and above all colour, they give a wonderful feeling of welcome. The Committee should organise a competition on the repainting of premises, some existing are most charming, others could follow. A Competition could put that push into action.

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

The Committee should contact ENFO to obtain some of the very fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation. Information boards on the bird life and shore life could be produced - with the help of the school children. There are many examples of these available and they are always popular. An Taisce should be contacted for information on the Green Flag Award for school children.

### **Litter Control:**

No litter was seen on the day of adjudication and this is great credit to the Committee on this achievement. Louth County Council were great in supplying both the many litter bins and the recycling unit.

### **Tidiness:**

Again this small seaside village looked most pleasing and tidy on the day of adjudication and the Committee and all their helpers should be thanked. An item that may not occur in this village, but is worth mentioning, is that there is a tendency during the school holiday period, to neglect the school grounds. It is important that pupils should be organised to keep the grass cut and to pick up windblown litter and also to keep the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free from weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

The terraced houses, on both Dundalk Street and Back Lane, looked very well, both their gardens and hanging baskets. The contrast between this flower display and the white walls was most pleasing. It is suggested that the Committee should organise a Gardens Competition, whether in just window boxes and hanging baskets, or front gardens. This would undoubtedly bring in many more properties and would also encourage the entrants to join the Tidy Towns Committee.

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

As mentioned under Landscape, there is a wonderful display of naturally growing valerian on the way into the village on Greenore Road and is a most welcoming sight. May it remain so. The R173 from both ends of the village is fine and also gives a welcoming feeling on approaching the village, with the sea and Carlingford mountain containing the view.

### **General Impression:**

A most pleasant seaside village, bright and tidy and the buildings themselves stepping up the slope overlooking the village. Very fine beach adjoining the Seafront Road. Indeed it is tempting to

mention that the low stone wall between the footpath and the beach should be removed to allow a better view of the beach, but that is not practical. The Committee should concentrate on wildlife and some additional painting of buildings.