

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Reaghstown**

Ref: **26**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</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, two Maps of the Village and its location and a three-year Development Programme. 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 progress. The Committee is to be congratulated on their work with the County Council and FÁS. The local school was not mentioned but it is assumed that they helped greatly. It is important to continue this liaison work with the statutory bodies as they can give invaluable help and advice to the Committee. It was noted that FÁS provided five workers. Well done.

### The Built Environment:

The Church is the focal point of this very small but extended village. It has been newly painted and with its well maintained grounds deserves this focus of attention. The adjoining houses also are very well presented. The entire small centre is charming. The Danny Boy Inn, some distance out from the village, needs to have its car parking forecourt redesigned in order to provide more planting adjoining the building. Possibly a planting bed two metres deep. There is a general impression of attention to detail in the colours which gives an air of welcome to the village.

### Landscaping:

The narrow verges, very well maintained with tree planting and hedgerows, starting at the N2 and continuing to the Danny Boy Inn, gives an atmosphere of care and welcome to all visitors or passers by. Additional tree planting should be berried trees using such species as oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut or thorn, all to encourage bird life. The school children should be very much involved in this additional tree planting. At the junction of the N2 and the road leading to Reaghstown there is an extremely well detailed and presented picnic site incorporating well maintained grass covered earth shapings, picnic tables, litter bins, tree, shrub and flower planting and a small car park that is very well sited. Well done. Possibly this attention to design and detailing could not be transferred to the road junction adjoining the Danny Boy Inn. The Inn itself could be greatly improved by cutting back about two metres of tarmac from the front of the building and a large planting bed created.

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

It is suggested to the Committee that they should contact ENFO to obtain some of the very fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation. Again, the Committee should contact an Taisce for information on the Green Flag Awards. The school children should be congratulated for their research work on an information board.

### **Litter Control:**

There was practically no litter in this extended village on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement and their organisation of a daily trawl by the school children for litter.

### **Tidiness:**

Again, Reaghstown was a delightfully tidy village on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated for this constant attention to detail. During the school summer holidays there is a tendency to neglect the school grounds. It is important that some pupils should keep the grass cut and pick up windblown litter and also keep the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free from weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

Within the small centre of the village and adjoining the Church, all the houses were very pleasantly painted and their colourful planted wall hangings and gardens are a pleasure to see on entering the village from the N2. The Committee should organise a Gardens Competition to keep interest going among the garden owners and encourage a few gardens not yet up to the standards of the others to compete. It is suggested that the Committee should consider the creation of a mulch or composting bank for the collection of grass and leaves etc. The compost could then be used in various locations in the village for planting hanging baskets, etc.

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

As mentioned under Landscaping, there is an extremely attractively detailed picnic site at the junction of the N2 with the road leading to the village. This most competent work should now be developed at the road junction adjoining the Danny Boy Inn. Road signage needs some more attention and this should be brought up with the County Council.

### **General Impression:**

A most charming spread out small village. The Centre was very well maintained and very colourful, with hanging baskets, trees and well kept gardens. There is a very good community spirit throughout. The Adjudicator looks forward to next years entry.

