

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tallanstown**

Ref: **191**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **258**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	25
Litter Control	40	37	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	258	255

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition, which included a very well completed Entry Form, and excellent booklet giving much information on the committee's work and its new three-year Development Programme and a Map of the Village. The committee has just completed its fifth Year Development Plan. Well done. Your weekly (indeed daily) and monthly liaison with the county council, FÁS and the pupils of the school, the local residents groups and an Taisce is excellent and serves to focus your members on the proposed works and, in particular, involve the local community in the spirit of the Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

Tallanstown developed around the junction of the R171 and the R166. It is a small and pleasant village with a gentle rural quietness. Today it is expanding gradually with additional housing groups. At the crossroads is the new church; beside it is the old 1810 Church, now being renovated as a community centre. The work is practically completed and has been a wonderful undertaking by the committee. Across the road are a few shops. The central large triangular island has been developed s housing. The Glyde River and its bridge adjoin the shops. There is some wirescape problems, but in time, when the county council is digging up roads around this central island, these cables will be placed underground. If the duct for the cables could be laid at that time it is a step forward. There is a charming park on Carrick Road at the back of the old church. Two older housing areas, Castle View and Chestnut Grove, are within the village and are most attractive. New housing

developments have now to be sited outside the tight enclosure of the present village.

Landscaping:

There are large mature trees on the approach roads into the village and these have given the village a charming wooded character. The village park - Maguire's Park - is very fine and is now practically complete. The motte at its end is a most interesting feature and is covered in trees and scrub. It is the intention of the committee to allow this vegetation to develop naturally and not to clear it. It is a wonderful children's mystery play area. Well done. The small fishing pool sited on the side of the road and over a stream is a delightful feature, though the adjudicator saw not even the shadow of a fish as he peered into its stone-lined walls. Nevertheless, it is a most charming picnic area to stop and have lunch. It is commendable to have the pupils of the school involved in all aspects of the Tidy Towns Competition. The committee should undertake a tree planting programme in the new housing developments. Tree should be berried and species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut or thorn.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The entire length of the Glyde offers wonderful examples to develop habitats for both flora and fauna. The rich cover in places of trees, scrub and long grasses is very good. Though it may be disappointing not to be able to develop riverside walk, through compromise it will happen. Possibly the committee could contact ENFO to obtain some of the fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation, also the committee could make enquiries to an Taisce on the Green Flag Awards on school children's involvement in environmental projects.

Litter Control:

There was no litter seen by the adjudicator on the day of the adjudication. The committee is to be congratulated on this achievement, though really it is just a result of the wonderful work done by the committee and the pupils. The adjudicator did not see a recycling unit in the village, though there might have been one. If not, the committee should apply for one from the council. It could possibly be sited somewhere in the vicinity of the shops.

Tidiness:

Tallanstown is a charming, tidy village and was so on the day of adjudication and again is to be congratulated on this fine achievement. 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:

The gardens of the houses in Castle View and Chestnut Grove, which are older residential developments, were delightful and gave an air of welcome and care to the village. It is important now that the committee should consider the creation of a Gardens Competition to interest not only the older housing areas, as mentioned above, but also to encourage the owners of new gardens of residents coming into the village. It is important that these new residents not only take part in the competition, but should join and be involved in the Tidy Towns activities. It is suggested to the committee that they could create a mulch or composting bank for the collection of grass cuttings, leaves etc. The compost can then be used in various locations in the village for planting beds, hanging baskets, etc.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the approach roads have tall, mature trees enclosing them and they give a wooden character to these entrance roads into the village. With the very well maintained verges there is a

very welcoming air. There are some charming gardens on the approach roads and they help also to reinforce this welcoming feeling. As noticed in last year's adjudicator's report, traffic was inclined to be well over the speed limit on the approach roads. The committee should discuss this problem with the council to introduce traffic calming measures at the entrances to the village, as speeding is now of national concern.

General Impression:

Tallanstown is a very charming, tidy, welcoming and well presented small village and the committee are to be congratulated on the creating and maintaining of this elusive feeling. The adjudicator looks forward to the beginning of a new three-year Development Programme.

Second Round Adjudication:

There was virtually no litter on second adjudication day in early August. and the village was not only looking tidy but was exploding with colour. The completion of the Old School renovation is an important achievement. The huge investment in tree planting over the years has really shown its merit. Forward planning of this kind is exceptionally prominent in the Tallanstown effort, and as shown in the completion of the five year development plan. This has been a superlative enterprise, and the whole community is to be congratulated.