

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullyallen**

Ref: **684**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **207**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	21
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	25
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition, which included a well completed Entry Form, a very good booklet on the West Ferrard Boyne Rural Development Group, a Work Programme for 2003 and two maps of the Tullyallen Community. Your association with FÁS, Lough County Council and the many local community groups, especially the West Ferrard Boyne Rural Development Group, serves to focus your Committee on the many proposed works to be undertaken. It also brings the local community of Tullyallen into the spirit of the Tidy Towns initiative. The Adjudicator looks forward to your plan of work in the coming years.

The Built Environment:

The village extends from the crossroads on the R165 for above one kilometre eastwards. It is a scattered form development, with many similar examples throughout Ireland. It begins at the crossroads where there is a substantial contemporary school, both buildings and grounds well maintained. Then at well spaced intervals, the post office, a filling station, the parochial house and a charming thatched pub, St. Malachy's Terrace of eight small houses at right angles to the main road. All on the north side of the road. The village is focused around a small, very pleasantly designed small "square" on the south side of the road. This feature won a well deserved Millennium Award for its attention to detail with its limestone cobbled floor and backing wall, its seating, litter bins and some trees. On rising ground above the "square", approached on a narrow winding road, tree covered and quite steeply rising is the present Church and graveyards. There are the ruins

of a much older church adjoining the present church.

Landscaping:

The majority of the older houses are of stone with well kept gardens that are most pleasing. The small "square", the focus of the extended village, is delightfully detailed. The plaque of the award is inset into the back wall. The cemetery and Church grounds are well maintained and indeed had people working on it on the day of adjudication. The school grounds and cemetery could take some additional tree planting and the students should be very involved in this tree planting programme. The trees should be indigenous to the locality and be berried or with some other form of fruit and the species could be oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut, lime or thorn. It is suggested that the Committee should consider the creation of a mulch bank from the grass cuttings, leaves, etc. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In this small village and its surroundings and with its wonderful rich cover of trees, hedgerows and small streams, there is little need to develop a stand-alone wildlife habitat. The work on the Nature and Heritage Trail is a much more significant feature for the development of the flora and fauna of this extended village. The preparation of a series of illustrated boards is a very good idea and help on it should be sought from the pupils of the school.

Litter Control:

There was no litter seen in this community on the day of adjudication and the Committee should be congratulated on this achievement because of their well organised trawls through the village for litter. The litter bins at the "square" should be monitored to see that they are never full.

Tidiness:

There was only one area of untidiness and that was at the filling station. This site and especially its outbuildings, detract from this charming well kept village.

Residential Areas:

There were two forms of housing in this small village, the widely spaced mostly stone houses and the much smaller houses on St. Malachy's Terrace. Both were well kept and added to the pleasantness of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges along the main road were very well kept. The only note of caution was the lack of speed signs or markings on the road surface itself at the entrances to the village at both ends. 30mph signs need to be erected. The Adjudicator saw, during the adjudication, many cars speeding on this wide, straight section of road. The crossroads should show more clearly the dominant road. No special signage for the school was seen. These points could be brought up by the Committee to members of Louth County Council.

General Impression:

Tullyallen is a delightful community. The small "square" is most pleasing and is an invitation to passing motorists to slow down and stop for a short respite.

