

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlanstown**

Ref: **237**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	34	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	15
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	17	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>223</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition which included a completed Entry Form, a three to five year Plan and a Village Plan which was of great assistance on the day of adjudication. There is a population of approximately 190 people in Carlanstown.

We are glad to see your development progressing. Your relationship with the local community, including the school, Meath County Council, local building contractors and other local businesses, serves to focus your Committee on the work to be done while involving the community in the spirit of the Tidy Towns. We look forward to the results of your plan of action in the coming years.

### The Built Environment:

This is a small pleasant rural village. It is rather long and drawn out, though there is the makings of a village centre around the school, shop and pub. The very well kept houses scattered along the main street and their gardens and grass verges contribute to the pleasant character of the village. Hanging baskets add to the charm of some of the houses on this main street and a feature should be made of these extra baskets in future years. The school grounds were tidy but tree planting is badly needed - indigenous native trees should be used - and the students encouraged to partake in the tree planting programme.

## **Landscaping:**

There is a general lack of trees along main street and a tree planting programme should be continued that would also incorporate the school grounds. The seats should be repaired and repainted. As mentioned above, additional hanging flower baskets would add colour, but tree planting is a much more important programme to undertake in the coming years. A "front gardens" competition should be considered to encourage the creation of new gardens and to encourage the owners of new houses to participate in the Tidy Towns Competition.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There was no evidence of a programme to consider the encouragement of wildlife. This should not mean the immediate development of the small river that exists, but the planting of berried trees as the core aim in your tree planting programme should be to attract and keep birds within the village. Trees such as oak, beech, ash, chestnut, lime and thorn should be planted. Possibly ENFO could be contacted to obtain some of the very fine publications they produce on wildlife conservation areas. The Adjudicator looks forward with interest to the implementation of this suggestion and to your first thoughts on the development of the small river area.

## **Litter Control:**

There was practically no litter on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be commended on this achievement. The pupils of the school should be organised to do a weekly trawl of the village, both to pick up all litter and to encourage and train the pupils themselves to have pride in their village. More litter bins are needed and should be obtained, if possible, from the County Council, and of course the accompanying litter collection must be a part of this programme. It is suggested to the Committee that they should consider the creation of a mulch bank from the grass cuttings and leaves, both from the public verges and also from private gardens and the school grounds. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the village.

## **Tidiness:**

The village was generally neat and tidy but the grass verges along main street lacked kerbing in places. The committee should consider improving the existing seats and providing a few litter bins.

## **Residential Areas:**

Additional house building can cause temporary disruption. Most of the gardens of the houses in the village looked most pleasant and added to the general feeling of care. The gardens competition, mentioned above, should be considered, (and should include the school, shops and pub). This competition could encourage many more people to contribute to the success of the Tidy Towns Competition in Carlanstown.

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

In conjunction with the planning and undertaking of a tree planting programme, it is essential that the County Council be requested to paint yellow lines demarcating the main street from the verges of grass, gravel and tarmacadam currently being used for car parking. Only when this is done, can a proper tree planting programme be initiated. There is a broken and badly stained village sign that must be replaced. Entry signs to the village must be kept clean and grass cut around them. Possibly the school needs warning signs.

## **General Impression:**

A long but typical village with quiet charm and the makings of a distinct village centre. The Committee is to be highly commended for keeping interest going. Additional members and a few

extra sub-committees would be needed.