

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Trim**

Ref: **78**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **214**

Category: **E**

Date: **17/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	34
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	21
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee is thanked for their entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. The Entry Form, however, was poorly completed and no Town Map or three to five-year Development Plan was included. The three to five-year Development Plan is of great help to the Adjudicator in assessing the work being done and is also of considerable benefit to the Committee in monitoring its yearly progress. There was also no information provided in relation to any support groups. It is very important to work with the County Council and other bodies, as well as with community groups and the pupils of the various schools, as they can be an invaluable source of assistance and advice. It is hoped that this situation would be rectified next year.

### The Built Environment:

The population of Trim is approximately 6,000 people. It is now a small market town where the Dublin-Athboy road crosses the Boyne. In medieval times it was one of the principal strongholds on the edge of the Pale, with many monasteries, churches and hospitals. Were its medieval properties maintained it would be one of the showpieces of Ireland. Now it is a heritage town, a reminder of times past. The Castle dominates the town. Some of the medieval street pattern remains, the rest is of recent origin. The town is now experiencing a very rapid growth in many housing estates around the perimeter. One noticeable feature of Trim, and especially the older area, is the marked lack of street-name signage. The Adjudicator was even asked by visitors, on his short visit to Trim, where certain streets were because of this lack of street names.

The area around the Castle has been very beautifully handled, with well kept lawns and some trees. The completion of the Courthouse, Council Offices, car parking and shops facing the Castle has added immeasurably to this area. The terrace of houses facing the Castle, with their hanging baskets, complement this development. There is a very fine Catholic Church sited on high ground opposite the Castle. Its tall spire is a landmark from the surrounding countryside and its grounds are very well developed and maintained. The other landmark in the town is the Llyod tower, now used for telephone transmitters, as well as a look-out platform. The Committee is slowly tying these disparate elements together.

### **Landscaping:**

The Committee should consider a tree-planting programme within the housing estates, school grounds and on some of the roads into the town. Appropriate tree species are oak, ash, rowan, beech, chestnut, lime or thorn. It is important that the school children play a major role in this planting exercise. It is also suggested that the Committee consider the creation of a mulch bank for the grass cuttings, leaves, etc. The mulch could then be used in various locations throughout the town in planting beds and planters. This exercise could also be used to encourage more members to join the Tidy Towns Committee.

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

There was no mention of wildlife management or conservation in the Entry Form, so the Adjudicator was at a loss to know how to comment. There is of course the Boyne as one natural habitat to be worked on as a conservation project. Possibly the use of berried trees and the many existing trees could be used as a basis for a bird sanctuary. The Adjudicator awaits next year's entry to see what the Committee plans.

### **Litter Control:**

There was no litter seen on the day of adjudication and the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement. It is suggested that that the County Council be requested to supply an additional five bin recycling unit to be sited in one of the new residential estates and the shopping centre associated with these developments.

### **Tidiness:**

The town was very tidy on the day of adjudication and again the Committee is to be congratulated on this achievement. There is a general tendency, during the school summer holidays, to neglect the school grounds. It is important that the Committee along with pupils from the schools keep the grasses cut and pick up any windblown litter while keeping the adjoining verges, kerbing and bases of walls free of weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are some very attractive gardens both within the town and on the approach roads leading into the town. They give a feeling of care and welcome to all and are to be complimented. There are also many fine gardens within the existing and the new housing groups. It is suggested that the Committee create a Gardens Competition to bring up the standard of all gardens. Again, the Competition could be used to entice potential members to join the Committee. Though many of the open green spaces within the existing groups are maintained to a very high standard, tree planting is badly needed.

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

The Dublin road entry into Trim is excellent, with trees, very well kept verges and very fine front

gardens of houses along the road. The entry from the Navan side is untidy and disruptive in places at present due to the on-going development works.

### **General Impression:**

Trim is a most attractive town, particularly around the Trim Castle area. When the extensive road works and other construction works are completed, it is expected that much of the remaining sections of this Heritage Town will assume the character and finish of that around the Castle. In the meantime the Committee should keep up its excellent work.