

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Geashill**

Ref: **283**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **241**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	241	238

Overall Developmental Approach:

Geashill Tidy Towns Committee is to be complimented on the overall development approach they have taken. Your five-year plan is commendable and achievable. Geashill is a beautiful village with a lot going for it.

The Built Environment:

There are some really beautiful buildings in the village which are very well maintained and presented, including the rectory and the school; the new wall at the school is complimented. The thatched house on the Mountmellick Road was particularly admired. The buildings around the green are well maintained and presented. Caruthers pub on the corner could be lovely with a little effort. Harrington's is beautifully presented. The ruins of the castle are very impressive. The efforts made at the old church are highly commended. There is a disused bin at the side of the post office which should be removed.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village is very well presented. The green area is a lovely feature of the village. The bed at the Geashill sign on the Portarlinton Road is in need of attention. The adjudicator looks forward to the completion of plans for the picnic area. This area could be so much

more of an amenity in the village if it was enhanced. Hopefully, Offaly County Council will agree with its potential. The Glebe is a lovely area but the weeds at its entrance really give an uncared for impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No doubt the green and the Glebe are home to much wildlife. The inclusion of wildlife information on boards will help to raise awareness among the public. The information boards you mention in your application are not yet erected. They will help and will gain marks under this heading. The picnic area is a good amenity and as mentioned under the heading of landscaping could be enhanced.

Litter Control:

You mention in your application that the battle with litter continues. On the day of adjudication litter control was excellent with only a little litter on the green.

Tidiness:

The overall view of the village is quite tidy, but attention to detail will gain you more marks under this heading. Weeds distract from the village.

Residential Areas:

Most houses are well maintained and presented. Houses around the green are lovely. Two stone cottages on the Ballinagar Road are beautiful character houses and should be cared for as such. The thatched cottage on the Mountmellick Road was much admired. Some houses need to weed their frontage and clean or paint walls. It is important that all residents come on board to try to make an effort. The beds in the tyres in St. Oliver's estate were admired. The houses here are well presented and there is a very visible effort in this estate. There was little or no litter or weeds. One property in the third row of houses was particularly admired. The garden was teeming with flowers and there was a lovely floral display over the door - a credit to the owner. Well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads, streets and back areas are generally well presented. Weeds do detract from the area.

General Impression:

The general impression of Geashill is very favourable. The village is well presented and give the impression of being well cared for. The effort, which is undertaken here in Geashill, is very evident. You will make a difference to your village.

Second Round Adjudication:

Litter control was not good for second adjudication. Litter weak spots included the entrance to the Glebe walk beside the post office and on the verges out the Tullamore Road. The standing sign for the shop is out of scale in its setting. Carruthers property on the crossroads is in need of some attention. New in-fill residential development was noted and admired, but some older dwellings could be re-whitewashed or painted to "freshen" their appearance (St. Oliver's Estate being an example). The sign there needs to be refurbished also. New saplings on the entrance from one approach road have been noted and hopefully they will thrive. The weather stained wall behind could be improved with painting. A seat near the telephone kiosk needs refurbishment, as do some bins, in particular, the bin located beside the post office. Village greens and verges are presented to an excellent standard and your magnificent stands of mature trees are one of your finest assets. We

wish you every success regarding the redevelopment of the picnic lay-by area on the Portarlinton entrance to Geashill. Well done on the new stone wall and the acquisition of new bins and the new sign.