

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Welshisland**

Ref: **331**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **215**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	14
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>209</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

What a shame to note from your application that apathy appears to be setting in regarding the Tidy Towns group in the village. This is the adjudicator's first visit to Welshisland and the first impression is that of a beautiful and pleasant village set in lovely rural surroundings. The village is quite spread out and a number of new houses are still at different stages of development, which does present its own problems. However the village has huge potential to be not only be successful in this competition, but more importantly, to be a good community in which to live. Perhaps a circular could be sent around asking residents what they would like to see happening in the village. An announcement through the church and the involvement of the children in the school might be a good place to start. The feedback could form the basis of your future plans. Don't give up; a lot of good work has been done.

### The Built Environment:

Most buildings are well presented and maintained to a very high standard. The church and graveyard are really well presented. The graveyard wall will need cleaning or painting soon. The school is also well presented but again the boundary wall will need painting soon. The Island Inn sign and the bins are in need of attention. Some hanging baskets or tubs would add colour here. As mentioned last year, the petrol pumps could be cleaned or removed. The forge is beautiful and really well presented.

## **Landscaping:**

The layout of the village makes it difficult to plan landscaping in any one area. The area around the forge is beautiful and the school wildlife habitat is commended, as well as the other habitat areas. Church View estate is well maintained and presented and if the residents here are not willing to put in a habitat area there is nothing that Tidy Towns can do about that.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The habitat areas are complimented along with the rookery at the school. Do you have any plans to put up information boards to raise the awareness of the different types of wildlife in the area?

## **Litter Control:**

On the day of adjudication, litter control was excellent with just one piece of litter visible at the Island Inn.

## **Tidiness:**

Because a lot of development is taking place in the village it is a little untidy in areas. Lots of houses are still at different stages of development and their gardens and boundary walls will probably be the last to be dealt with. But the village does present a very tidy appearance around the school, the church, Church View and up to Kavanagh's. Hopefully this will continue to the other end of the village as the different developments are completed.

## **Residential Areas:**

The majority of residential areas are very well presented and maintained. There are some beautiful houses across from Kavanagh's and up along, but some of the frontages need to be finished off. Church View Estate is very well presented and well maintained outside also. The older residential area on the Portarlinton Road is very nice and also well presented. Some houses here need to pay attention to boundary walls and weeds.

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

The heavy machinery using the road is no doubt affecting the road in front of the development near the Island Inn. Ensure that the developer will repair the road as soon as or before finishing. Approach roads are maintained and put to good use in areas for habitats. There are major problems under this heading.

## **General Impression:**

The general impression of Welshisland is very favourable. The village is lovely and enjoys a beautiful setting. Do keep trying to generate interest in the community and the Tidy Towns. Try to submit brief plans next year.