

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athleague**

Ref: **79**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **187**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	25	22
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	11	9
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	187	174

Overall Developmental Approach:

Athleague is welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. The village is situated on a national primary route on the banks of a river and on the "Suck Way" countryside walk. Athleague is a fine village with a good mix of buildings in terms of size and architectural interest and enjoys an interesting layout. There are many scenic views both into and out of the village. It is good to note the community support given to the Tidy Towns Committee and that the committee works in partnership with the County Council. Thank you for your excellent sketch map, it facilitated adjudication, however no plan was submitted and this can hinder you from proceeding much further in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Congratulations on the restoration of the Mill Wheel and resurfacing to the rear of the Community Centre. A majority of buildings within the town are presented to the highest standard and many large commercial premises on entrances look very well. There are far too many roadside advertisement signs at the Statoil garage. The walls of the graveyard could be cleaned and/ or painted. The Community Hall looks very well (Tiernan Memorial Hall). Waldron's Connoughton's , The Village Inn, the Spar shop, Keanes and The Bridge House were all nicely presented.

Landscaping:

The little park with its centre piece located near the bridge was admired. Landscaping throughout Athleague has matured beautifully and there are many mature shrubbery and flower displays at important focal points in the village, all concerned are to be congratulated. The entrance from the Creggs road would be improved if trees were planted around the perimeter of the Cooperative to soften its visual impact. The trees planted on the footpath leading up the hill are maturing nicely, however the footpath itself is badly marred by weed growth and needs to be resurfaced.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The many scenic views from different points around the town and from approach roads of the river Suck and its bank are particularly nice. We wish you well with your plans to develop a scenic walk from the Church to the rear of the Cultural Park. You might consider adding some wildlife features or information panels to the walk.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good during our visit, however some litter bins were full to capacity and others were in need of refurbishment. We note from your submission that new bins have been erected, all of these should be maintained clean and well painted, preferably with the same colour.

Tidiness:

A number of derelict buildings were noted around the town. No doubt the owners of these buildings have been approached and they will be redeveloped in the short-term future given current property values. The recycling point was excellent, the nearby building materials should be removed. Some curbs were quite weedy as well as some stretches of hard shoulder and side areas also. Well done on the maintenance of green verges.

Residential Areas:

"An Graigh" residential development adds a new dimension to the physical and the social fabric of Athleague. We note with interest that other residential developments are planned. You are right to feel that their green areas will be a bonus to the village. Remind residents to pay particular attention to their boundary walls and perhaps take responsibility for the roadside area immediately outside of their own boundaries.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are many stretches of fine natural stone walls on approach roads which, if revealed and refurbished, would make an important contribution to the physical fabric of the village. The new nameplates are good, however one on the Ballygar entrance had a pot holed surrounding area. Both the nameplate and the speed limit sign on the approach up the hill need to be improved and the grass cut at the nameplate. The verges leading to Scoil Naomh Pdraig should be maintained neatly trimmed for about fifty metres before the school. The roadside car park to the sports grounds on the Creggs road is badly pot-holed and looks unpleasant.

General Impression:

The overall presentation of Athleague is very good particularly in respect of landscaping, well surfaced footpaths and road surfaces. The absence of wirescape, the attractive lamp standards and many well presented commercial properties create a good image to the village. To go further in the competition it will be important now to pay as much attention to smaller details as to large projects. Congratulations on a handsome increase in marks this year.

