

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullaghmore**

Ref: **441**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **199**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	199	194

Overall Developmental Approach:

Obviously an enormous amount of work falls upon the seven members of the Committee. The results of their endeavour is to be seen all around the village. Have you recruited additional members and helpers from among the new residents, and from those who own holiday homes? If you have not, then that kind of sharing of responsibilities is something which might be considered as it could be beneficial to the work and also help to integrate incomers.

The breakwater improvement works were in progress on adjudication day. Inevitably this causes continuing disruption and this has been taken into account.

The Built Environment:

The two hotels dominate this category, and do so with distinction. The Star of the Sea building was also admired. Smaller business premises are well kept. It would be wonderful if there were a shopfront of the quality required to enter for a national award, but unfortunately there is not. The rehabilitation of the old Schoolhouse is an admirable initiative and its influence will surely be greater in the long term than its small size might suggest. (PVC glazing bars are not recommended on traditional buildings, but it seems this battle is being lost throughout the country; pragmatically speaking, it is preferable to have PVC than a dilapidated structure!)

Landscaping:

The extensive grassy area between the seafront houses and the harbour adds enormously to the general spectacular scene. Those who maintain it so well are to be highly commended. Excellent clusters of planting on the sea side of the road beyond the hotels, with attendant picnic benches and tables, were very favourably noted, especially as their maintenance in such an exposed position must be extremely time-consuming. A fine rockery in the village was also admired, as were several urns and other floral displays.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The tree planting on the Sligo side of the village appeared to be very successful. It is appreciated how much work goes into the nurture of trees and indeed all plantings in this coastal area. Swans were seen nesting in the marsh area behind the dunes. It would be interesting to learn more about the Dune Preservation Project indicated on your map, and to know about your involvement in what goes to make up the special area of conservation; an increase in marking could result from making this type of information available by means of the entry form.

Litter Control:

In spite of the bins provided, there was some litter on the seafront green on adjudication day. This is undoubtedly dropped by thoughtless day-trippers and must be very frustrating for you. There was a more appreciable amount of litter - more like 'rubbish' - at the side of the road which rises up above the hotels. These two isolated instances apart, there did seem to be less disposable litter in the village as a whole.

Tidiness:

It is up to householders to keep their immediate frontages free of weed - it is not a difficult task, but here and there had not been done. If weeds are poisoned they still have to be removed, as dead weeds are as unsightly as growing ones. There is a rather unsightly area immediately behind the hotels (before you reach the old school); individual owners have a duty to maintain their properties in a civilised manner. A somewhat dilapidated shed at the entrance to the caravan park gives an unfairly poor impression as you arrive in Mullaghmore.

Residential Areas:

Older traditional houses appeared well looked after. In general, plastered or rendered houses should have their gables and chimney stacks painted to match their front walls. Some new stone-clad houses were much admired. An estate (un-named) of fairly new homes high above the village looked very neat, many with excellent wooden fencing and some with fine stone boundary walls. New residents should be encouraged to plant decorative shrubs and hedges that will withstand the climate, such as *escalonia* and *veronica*. Do encourage developers, or individual house builders, to remove materials as soon as the work is completed - this has not always been done. The old Post Office has been referred to above, but is marked under the Residential heading.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Congratulations to the committee on keeping roadside verges free of weed. Surfaces of roads are poor to middling! - no doubt you have approached the council on this issue. Paving is good. The lamp standards are very handsome - it seems rather mean that the first of the old ones as you approach the village was not replaced along with the others.

General Impression:

Naturally in Mullaghmore the eye is diverted by the magnificence of bay, strand and mountains, but

the contribution of the local people to the upkeep of the immediate vicinity, for the enjoyment of visitors and for their own enjoyment, is manifest on closer inspection. The leadership given by this committee deserves every possible commendation