

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Birdhill**

Ref: **54**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **255**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	39	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	22
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>248</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Your work plan seems most sensible and your work in relation to restoring the village green, with its magnificent sculpture of the bird from the associated Celtic legend from which the town derives its name, is highly commendable.

### The Built Environment:

Matt the Threshers looked extremely well, as did the associated peach coloured building adjacent. The Coopers looked fine ,although some planting could be introduced in this location to compliment the magnificent landscaped areas that are such a feature of the village. Although Tipperary Crystal has closed, its landscaped grounds are still beautifully maintained. Birdhill Co-op looked extremely fresh.

### Landscaping:

The new community park is well underway. The gate had yet to be painted, although it had obviously been treated in preparation for this recently. The trees and wild flower meadow were admired, although the area at the back appeared yet to be finished. Perhaps this work will be complete by second adjudication? The attractive planting by the village nameplate on the Dublin side was greatly admired ,as was the slate features surrounding the pump, at the foot of the

magnificently restored village green with its marvellous steel bird sculpture. There was attractive landscaping to be seen at the bus stops on either side of the road. Even minor landscaping features, such as the concrete drums were considered, and decorated with painted flowers.

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

This is another strong section in your entry. The Pollagh Trail with its information board and leaflet was certainly an interesting area to explore. The new park sports a wild flower meadow. Incidental wildlife areas were spotted along the road sides.

### **Litter Control:**

Your rota for litter pick ups and the spring clean up certainly appeared to have paid dividends as the village was almost litter free. However, some litter was noted to the car park area of Tipperary Crystal and Matt the Threshers.

### **Tidiness:**

Your work regarding regular sweeping and weeding was noted and appreciated. However, a weedy forecourt area on the Ballina Road created a bad impression. There are a large number of advertising hoardings on the Dublin Road. These should be actively discouraged, as they give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses within the village centre and along approach roads were generally well maintained. In particular, the attractive gardens with grassy banks on the Dublin Road were greatly admired.

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

You have correctly identified that traffic is a distinct problem within the village. Nonetheless the village looked extremely well despite the large volumes of traffic passing through. Along the Ballina Road the grass verges had been cut but the edges had been sprayed and the dead grass in this location had yet to be trimmed back. The wildlife area in this location was admired - do ensure that it does not grow to appear unkempt and neglected. On the Limerick Road the overhanging trees on grassy banks were greatly admired. This road was well maintained although a number of the new trees appeared to have been vandalised. On the Dublin Road the daisies, foxgloves and buttercups were admired although the road appeared quite overgrown further out. In fact, warning signs were virtually obscured in this location.

### **General Impression:**

Birdhill is an active and vibrant centre located on the very busy Dublin to Limerick Road. Despite the obvious problems associated with this, the village continues to perform extremely well in the competition.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The committee might consider maintaining grass verges along both sides of the road from the church to the village in order to create a stronger visual link between both. Development work in progress was noted across from the church. The new Town Park has been finished to a standard of excellence. Both the Co-Op and the Railway Station are neatly presented. Hearty congratulations on the Pollagh Trail and associated wildlife panels. The small woodland area has been noted also. The hard surfaces amenity area incorporating the water pump was admired especially in respect of the use of stone. Litter control and tidiness is excellent as are the flower displays which are in full

colour and bloom.