

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullahought**

Ref: **698**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **246**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tullahought Community Development is an organization which has much to be proud of. The work that has been done within the village centre and throughout is most impressive. Your bank of voluntary workers obviously work extremely hard as indeed must your part-time FAS worker. The planting of trees at the lake and the crossroads is to be highly commended, as is the extension of the butterfly area and the provision of nesting boxes, in terms of the promotion and maintenance of wildlife.

The Built Environment:

The Forge area is a most attractively maintained ruin. It has been reinstated in order to give the effect of the original without being a "fake" reproduction and this is most effective. The church looked well although appeared a little bit stained. The National School looked well. Powers is an attractive traditional shop front which would benefit from some attention. The stone walling throughout the village is most impressive.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition at which you obviously excel. The viewing tower is a wonderful idea, with its stone wall surrounds, low tower and inset information tiles indicating the wealth of

interest that is to be found in the surrounding countryside! The church car park also gives the right level of interest. It appears quite natural and is most in - keeping with the rural nature of its surroundings. The recycling area here was quite neatly presented and the vertical coping stones to the stone wall which neatly maintains the street line was greatly admired. The long rose garden behind the timber rail fence on the Wind Gap Road was admired as was the attractive picnic area with irises beside the Forge on this road. There were a number of incidental landscaped features including clematis and also the snapdragon, lavender and irises at the crossroads were greatly admired. Montbretia was evident in the hedgerows. The stone water feature on the Carrick-on-Suir Road was very simply presented with its curved stone form. The grotto was well maintained with freshly painted statues and cheerful red poppies in behind.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The road to the viewing tower showed a wealth of wild flowers including foxgloves, wild roses and honeysuckle. This strikes the correct balance, as it appeared natural without being overgrown or over manicured and is quite suitable for an area such as this leading to a secondary space. The small lake was most attractive with its yellow flag irises, foxgloves and timber rail surround and again here the correct level of management has been achieved rather than letting it grow wild or over manicuring it. A well deserved award from Conservation Volunteers Ireland and congratulations are due in relation to this award. The adjudicator was interested to note your approach to the local birdlife in the area in relation to refraining from cutting the hedgerows until bird nesting time is complete.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally very good. All that was evident were a couple of papers on the road to the viewing tower. You must be all the more vigilant, as even one or two papers in a village of Tullahought's size are all the more evident.

Tidiness:

The village generally appeared quite neat and ordered on adjudication day, apart from the items previously mentioned in this report. A problem area were the magnificent old outbuildings set at unusual angles to the road on the Wind Gap approach, which appeared quite grubby and should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition. A pile of stones was also evident on this road. Presumably a wall will be built in the not too distant future. Do ensure that all building materials are removed once construction is complete.

Residential Areas:

The houses and gardens of Tullahought were generally well maintained on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Both the Kilmoganny and Carrick-on-Suir Roads were maintained to a high standard on adjudication day. However, the Wind Gap Road sported quite overgrown verges and banks and the grubby outbuildings mentioned previously gave a bad impression as the village nameplate was mounted on these making them all the more evident to the visitor. The oval village nameplates were greatly admired.

General Impression:

Tullahought is a most attractive centre which continues to do extremely well in the competition. The high level of interest shown by its community is ever evident.

Second Round Adjudication:

A village full of environmental surprises for this adjudicator making a first visit on a pleasant July day. As mentioned by the first adjudicator you have created a good balance of cultivated and wild floral display in the village centre and on approach roads. The great work of previous years is now paying dividend and improving with the passing of time. Well done on the use of indigenous materials, e.g., the use of slate on the walls, so appropriate for the traditions of this area. We also like your preference for round pillars. Your problems of dereliction are well acknowledged and will need to be tackled if you are to progress further. Your marks have increased significantly in the last two years, so you will now need to pay greater attention to detail as you move to a higher league. There was an air of caring throughout the village and this reflects the real spirit of Tidy Towns. We also urge you to protect the rural ethos of the village and ensure new buildings reflect the character of this elevated area.