

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collon Village**

Ref: **61**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **209**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	209	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your entry into this year's competition which included a well completed entry form highlighting works carried out since the previous year. The 3/5 year plan requires a little more detail than was supplied. This will help the adjudicator award marks for the valuable work being carried out and assist the committee in the monitoring of progress. This need not be an indepth document but merely expand on the details provided in the plan already in existence, for instance, rather than saying "plant beds and tubs at various locations" the committee should name the locations and the time frame involved. Well done on the continuing co-operation with the County Council, FAS and the Local School. Perhaps, next year, you could expand a little on the details of this co-operation.

The Built Environment:

The focal point of this village is the Square, Courthouse and housing. Although the new M1 motorway has diverted some of the traffic away from the village it was dissapointing to note that there was still a constant stream of lorries using the village on the morning of the adjudication. The wirescape is quite intrusive in the village and discussions should take place with the ESB to ascertain if something can be done about it. The grounds of both churches were very clean, however the Grotto at the Catholic Church requires attention. There were a number of advertising boards attached to the railings by the Seven Oaks House and the Mattock Inn- are these necessary? They looked very intrusive along this village street. In the main, the business premises in the village

were well maintained. The stone wall on the Ardee Rd. is very attractive - congratulations to all concerned.

Landscaping:

As noted in last years report, a programme for tree planting along the main Dublin-Derry Rd. could be organised. There were many hanging baskets evident which gave wonderful colour to the village. The entry into the village from Slane is very impressive and the landscaped area on approach is very welcoming. The tree planting at the Parochial Hall will greatly enhance the Ardee Rd. over the next couple of years and the adjudicator looks forward to the new park at the back of the hall developing also. There is a small railed off area on the left hand side of the Ardee Rd. just past the crossroads - some attention should be given to this area if possible, e.g. repair and painting of the gate and railings. This area could serve as another attractive "nook" in the village. Mattock Community Centre deserves special praise for the appearance of the site on the day which was excellent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of the park at the rear of the Parochial Hall will give an added dimension to the wildlife of the village. As stated in last year's report, ENFO produces some very useful publications with regards to wildlife conservation that should assist the committee and it is recommended that they are contacted: Tel: 01 8882001

Litter Control:

There was very little litter visible on the day of inspection except for around the square. There was no litter visible around the recycling units in the Parochial Hall grounds unlike many other towns and villages, so again well done on this achievement. More litter bins are required on the Drogheda Rd. There was an abundance of chewing gum on the pavements, particularly on the Drogheda Rd. The local schools could be contacted to organise an awareness campaign of this problem. An added litter problem this year, that applies to all towns and villages, are cigarette butts on the pavements - pubs should be encouraged to provide disposal units for cigarettes outside their premises as well as keeping these areas as clean as possible.

Tidiness:

On entering the village from both Ardee and Slane the approach roads give a general appearance of tidiness. However, in many cases, although the grass verges were cut the edges were left unfinished. The stone verge on the Kells Rd. entry requires weeding. The plan for 2004 states at No.1 - "Clean, repair and paint all seats and bins as necessary". It would appear that this has not been achieved as yet but once completed will add greatly to the overall appearance of tidyness in the village. Particular attention should be paid to grass verges.

Residential Areas:

In general, residential areas were looking very well. Papal drive looked very well and deserves special mention as there was no litter visible in the estate. There were some wonderful gardens on the approach roads into the village. The committee must keep up the good work with all residential areas and ensure that contact is made with new residents moving into the new estates that are being developed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Ardee road is looking particularly attractive as is the approach road from Slane. It is very important that road signs are cleaned regularly because of the heavy traffic flow through the village. The Derry sign on the Drogheda approach road was obscured by overgrowth. As mentioned, parts of Drogheda St. was covered in chewing gum on the pavement. Pubs and shops should be encouraged

to provide cigarette receptacles outside their premises and keep the areas as clean as possible.

General Impression:

Collon is a very charming, welcoming village. There has been vast improvement over the past number of years. The square is a very attractive feature and the Ardee Rd. is very welcoming. The adjudicator looks forward to seeing the developments in the coming years.