

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockbridge**

Ref: **623**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **254**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	30	30
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>251</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks to the committee for their entry into this year's competition. Included were maps and the new 5 year development plan. The plan is an excellent piece of work, very realistic and achievable. However the committee did not list the items that have been completed since last year's adjudication - this needs to be done on a yearly basis. The new plan lists the items due to be completed in 2004-the committee needs to list in next years entry form the works that have been completed to ensure that marks are awarded for the works completed.

### The Built Environment:

Knockbridge is a charming rural village. The Grotto, Church and the school dominates the village. Lisheen Park is a wonderful amenity area and plans for its enhancement features strongly in the 5 year plan for the village. The new housing developments blend in well in the village and that is welcomed. The pump area is to be developed at the crossroads and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing this over the coming years. In fact, it is noticeable that any suggestions for development or improvement that the adjudicator would make on this village as a result of this year's adjudication are all items that have already been addressed in the 5 year plan.

### Landscaping:

There are some wonderful areas of landscaping throughout the village. Trees planted some time ago are now maturing and look exceptionally well. The carpark and church grounds are all landscaped and it is nice to see the flowers in tubs at the school grounds during the holidays. There are trees planted at the entrance to the school grounds also. It is wonderful to note that the flowers that have been planted have not been vandalised, well done to both the committee and community on this.

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

Stephenstown Pond is a wonderful amenity for the area and the expansion of the site is eagerly awaited. For the purposes of Tidy Towns, adjudication normally takes place within the 30mph speed limits. The 5 year plan includes some great projects that will enhance wildlife and natural amenities within the village, e.g. development at Lisheen Park and development of a half acre site on the Dundalk Rd. into a wildflower garden. It is important that the committee continues to develop "wildlife and natural amenities" within the village itself and keeps adjudicators informed of these developments in addition to those going on at Stephenstown Pond in order to maintain the maximum marks in this category.

### **Litter Control:**

Around the school, church, carpark and Grotto were litter free but there were some pieces of litter around the village on the day of adjudication. Litter was also to be seen in the grass verges outside of Naomh Brid football grounds. The Bring Recycling Centre was very clean and tidy.

### **Tidiness:**

It is evident that there is a hard working committee and community driving the Tidy Towns initiative as the village is very well maintained throughout. The only areas of untidiness were at the TOP station (the sign needs replacing), there were some litter strewn around and the grass verge that led down to the pump was overgrown and untidy.

### **Residential Areas:**

All residential areas were looking exceptionally well on the day of adjudication. The houses at Knockattin deserve special praise. It will be most welcome when all the estates have nameplates to identify them (this again is in the 5 year plan).

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

As in all towns and villages across Ireland there has been some development in Knockbridge although here the newer estates blend in very well with the existing houses. This is due in part to the care and attention given to the landscaping, and it is hoped that this will continue with any new developments due to take place in the future. As previously mentioned, all areas were looking exceptionally well maintained and the streets and back areas give a very welcoming appearance to the village.

### **General Impression:**

Knockbridge is a very well maintained rural village. It gives an instant impression of care to the visitor. The developments outlined in the 5 year plan will enhance the village greatly. The adjudicator wishes the committee the best in implementing this plan and looks forward to its fruition over the coming years. As suggested in last year's report, there is a need to increase the link between the village and the Stephenstown Pond area.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Approaching from Blackrock, the carpark at the Bring Centre was disappointingly weedy and the verge across the road was overgrown. The standard improved closer to the village centre. Well trimmed hedging and stone walls were admired. The restoration of the stone lined road edges on the Louth Road is commended. The green at the old estate was being well enjoyed on a sunny afternoon. The landscaping of the new estate integrates this development admirably with the village. On the other hand the new brick wall fronting the main road is at variance with stone work generally around the village. The rusty grilles on the old school are an eye sore - can they not be removed? The mature trees around the village are one of your greatest assets - they beautifully contain views and contribute to villagescape compositions. We look forward to returning next year.