

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tallanstown**

Ref: **237**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **261**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	43
The Built Environment	40	35	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	36	37
Tidiness	20	16	17
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	8	9
TOTAL MARK	300	261	258

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks to the committee for their 2004 application that was very well completed and informative. The hand-written piece updating the adjudicator on the village was most useful. The Map as always is very useful - all areas of new landscaping, etc. should be indicated on the map. Last year's report mentions a new 3 year development plan that was not included this year. Adjudicators change from year to year so it is useful to include a copy of any plans in each year's application. Co-operation between the committee, local authority and other statutory bodies is obviously very good. It is great to see the school children included in the committee's work.

The Built Environment:

Tallanstown is a village of up to 1,000 people that is very welcoming and attractive. The school and church are sited close to the crossroads and are both very well maintained. The most striking feature of this year's adjudication is of course the completion of the Old School Building - well done to all concerned, a fantastic achievement. It is good to see that the character of the village is being maintained with new housing developments taking place some distance from the village centre. The new tarmacaded area outside of Pairc Ui Thaibh looks very well although the poles on the outside are quite austere looking. The application mentions that the "false" windows are to be revamped in the near future. The Louth Arms is very well maintained - the Credit Union building could be repainted and the some of the other buildings along this road.

Landscaping:

There are wonderfully mature trees throughout the village. The shrubs and trees at Maguire Park looked very well. There are new shrubs and gravel/stones laid on the church grounds. The surrounds of the Old School Building also looked very well on the day. The centre of the village was awash with colour from hanging baskets, tubs etc.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a very attractive sign in the village with directions to a Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the adjudicator could not find it and asked a number of people coming out of the school collecting children where it was - no one could tell me! Eventually the adjudicator was told that it was where the wooden sty was but that there was nothing to see! At this site itself was a sign from the gun club that was very difficult to read. Does it say "trespassors will be prosecuted" or is it possible to walk around this area? It was not clear from the sign.

The area for wildlife at the end of Maguire Park is most welcome and the River Glyde is also suitable for flora and fauna. Good luck with developing the Riverside Walk - perhaps in time to come this may happen.

Litter Control:

The village centre itself was litter free on the day - congratulations on this achievement. One of the bins was upturned in Maguire Park and some litter spilled out onto the grass. The doors on two of the bins were swinging open and may need to be adjusted. The approach road leading down to the school and church also had some litter on the side. It is good to see that the school children are so involved in litter control in the village.

Tidiness:

In general the village is very tidy, neat and very pleasing. In Maguire Park there was an upturned bench and bin behind a tree that appeared to be there for some time. There were piles of cut grass lying along the back wall of Maguire Park. The basketball poles and hoops require painting as they look very worn and are visible from the road by Maguire Park.

Residential Areas:

The houses and green area along Glyde Rd. were very attractive and well maintained. Chestnut Grove and Castleview were also looking well maintained. Some houses in these estates would benefit from both exterior and boundary walls being painted. The green and back area of Cherrywood Park was untidy looking with overgrown grass and verges not maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general, the approach roads were very pleasing. The approach road towards Maguire Park looked wonderful although the Tallanstown sign required cleaning. Some of the Yield Right of Way signs need to be replaced. The nameplate and welcome signs all look very attractive and welcoming to the village. On the right hand side of the road, opposite the Wildlife Sanctuary, there is a beautiful stone wall, however the margin here is almost all clay and the grass is very sparse and unkempt looking and stretches down almost to Chestnut Grove.

General Impression:

Tallanstown is a wonderfully attractive village. It is very welcoming and has many attractive features such as Maguire Park and the many landscaped areas. The refurbishment of the Old School Building

was a major undertaking but well worth it now that the finished product is there to be seen. A very hard working committee whose work throughout the village is most evident.

Second Round Adjudication:

Again, congratulations on the completion of the Old School building! As usual it is the approach roads comprising neat grass verges, stone walls, hedging and trees which were admired. In this regard, it is unfortunate that the road side has been substantially opened up by the new housing area; hopefully on completion stone wall / hedges and trees will be reintroduced to integrate the new development with the village scape. A few incidental items of litter were noted. Storage of materials at the rear of the Centra Shop should either be removed or better screened. One Yield sign needed attention. It is suggested that planting be provided on the new tarmacadamed frontage of the Hall. Nonetheless, Tallanstown continues to maintain a very high standard of which the entire community should be proud!. Just pay a little more attention to detail for next year in order to regain lost marks.