

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Athboy**

Ref: **596**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **228**

Category: **C**

Date: **07/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	
The Built Environment	40	34	
Landscaping	40	33	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	8	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>228</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Athboy is indeed welcome back to the competition after an absence of five years! Much has evidently taken place in the town in the meantime, as it looked extremely well on adjudication day. Many thanks for your comprehensive submission which included a clear three year work programme, good map with well defined walking route and cross referenced document, heritage trail map and photographs. Athboy Tidy Towns and anti-litter group is evidently a hard working and enthusiastic one!

### The Built Environment:

Athboy is fortunate in regard to the wealth of fine architectural buildings within the town. Both public and commercial premises generally looked good on the day. The banks contribute strongly to the presentation of the streetscape and looked quite fresh, although it was disappointing to note that Christmas decorations were still up in June! The Post Office and Credit Union both made a good appearance. St. James' Vocational School was extremely well maintained. The Garda Station looked very fresh and the Catholic Church on Main Street with its adjacent National School looked quite charming. The Church of Ireland also looked well set as it is, off Main Street. In terms of commercial premises, most looked extremely well. Of note was Daly's, Casey's with hanging baskets, freshly painted Fagan's and the Darnley Lodge Hotel. A very good contribution was also made by McIlhenny's various premises. One or two shops looked quite shabby in comparison and should be painted up before next year's competition. Generally though the standard was good on

the day.

### **Landscaping:**

The town Fair Green is a marvelous and traditional asset to have in an Irish country town, particularly as it is located so close to the centre of Athboy. It looked quite magnificent with stone wall surround and large mature overhanging trees. Be sure that the galvanised gates are painted. Your plans for the heritage garden at Bridge Street is a marvelous initiative and should be a wonderful asset to the town when it's completed. Hanging baskets made a cheerful appearance to lamp standards and were quite subtle in their appearance - you had avoided the temptation to gild the lily by over emphasising these! The planted bed filled with begonias at the junction of the Mullingar Road was greatly admired. There is a most attractive walk along Barrack Lane, leading to Main Street, with magnificent hedging and paving.

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

Your plans in relation to the river project are looked forward to with great anticipation. Good luck with these endeavours. The urban forest at Cow Park also sounds like an interesting proposition. Perhaps you could give further details of these proposals with next year's submission?

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. Your worthwhile litter control initiative is obviously paying off.

### **Tidiness:**

Athboy gave a generally ordered and tidy appearance on adjudication day although one or two problem areas in relation to built environment have been referred to already. In respect of yard areas, ensure that unsightly yards are screened from public view, or that any fencing used in this regard is of a good presentation standard. A rusty curved roof beside Waxie's Dargle should be painted up before next year's competition.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses within the town centre and along approach roads generally looked well cared for on the day. Of particular note were the houses along the Kells Road, in particular the attractive single storey cottages with stone wall complete with inset seating along this road. An attractive vernacular house in the town centre in stone and brick was greatly admired. Some quite appropriately designed houses were admired at the Pound area and the renovated Engine House development has been sensitively treated. Both developments sit well in the urban fabric of Athboy.

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

The Kells Road appeared somewhat overgrown - indeed the welcome sign in Irish was virtually obscured by overgrowth! Do discourage advertising hoardings, as this gives roadsides a rather cluttered appearance. The grassy bank to the front of the new housing estate on this approach needed cutting but the attractive hedgerows to houses further along this road was greatly admired. Weeds were evident to kerbsides on the Mullingar Road.

### **General Impression:**

Athboy is an attractive busy working town which has shown much improvement since last entering the competition five years ago. Well done to all concerned and good luck with your future endeavours. This adjudicator looks forward to visiting the town again in the not to distant future to

see what other improvements you will have made by then!