

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Batterstown**

Ref: **468**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **234**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	229

Overall Developmental Approach:

Batterstown Village Enhancement Association certainly has a very large committee given the population of the village! You are fortunate in relation to the high level of sponsorship you receive and also with the woodcraft assistance from Meath County Council. You appear to have a good working relationship with same, an Taisce and Eircom, the Litter League and School Management Association. Your plans in relation to the reinstatement of the original gates of the church is a good initiative, as indeed are your plans to landscape the entrance area to the old graveyard. Although you have very comprehensively completed the application form, the adjudicator was most disappointed to note that you had not included a work programme or map of the village both of which would have been most useful on adjudication day! It is essential at this stage in the competition that you formulate a three to five year work programme. This document need only be a few pages long outlining your plans for the village's future development. You will find it most useful in relation to your own work and will also help the adjudicators to see how your work is progressing as the years go by.

The Built Environment:

The GAA appeared to have a new building on the Trim Road - its boundary wall was in need of attention and perhaps some landscaping could be considered in the grounds at the entrance area as at the moment it appears quite bare? The church and grounds were well maintained with an attractive graveyard. However, the boundary wall was in need of painting and weeds were apparent

at its base. Caffrey's Last Gasp Inn sported some attractive hanging baskets and window boxes. However, its adjacent outbuildings viewed on the Dublin approach were unfortunately not to the same high standard. Weeds were evident in front of the low boundary wall in this location. The new National School was virtually complete on the day and the adjudicator's look forward to seeing the finished product! Londis and the Top Shop were well presented at the Village Pump.

Landscaping:

Your plans to landscape the entrance area to the old graveyard are looked forward to with great anticipation. The hard work put into the grassy banks of the Dublin Road has certainly paid off. It looked extremely well with maturing trees, grass verges and permanent planting. The attractive landscaped area on the Trim Road with geraniums and the stone monument in relief-work looked well. The open spaces to houses on this road contribute well to this aspect of the competition. Although the modern metal benches on both main approach roads were admired, they may be a little urban in style for a village such as Batterstown. It's suggested that in time they be replaced with ones that are more suitable to the rural character of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You mention in your application that you have three main wildlife areas and plan to and plan to have a wild meadow on the Dublin side of the village. A map would have been most useful in locating the precise sites of these particular areas.

Litter Control:

Your work in relation to appointing litter wardens for specific areas is a good initiative. The standard of litter control on the day appeared to be good, although a few items were evident on the Dublin Road. The new bin outside the church was noted and admired.

Tidiness:

Do discourage the practice of fly posting as this can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. The rear area behind the car park at Caffrey's looked quite rough and unkempt on the day and weeds were evident to the bus stop area to the front of this.

Residential Areas:

The numerous housing estates contribute well to this category of the competition; of note being Church View, Rathregan Court and the Glebe housing developments, all of which were well maintained. The colourful planting to the roadside at the entrance to the latter created a good impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Trim Road had reasonably well maintained verges. The Dublin Road was maintained to a good standard and its landscaped areas have been previously mentioned. Welcome signs in Irish on both sides of the village were noted. However, in both cases it was in a bad state of repair and quite unreadable unfortunately!

General Impression:

Batterstown is an attractive County Meath village whose residents show an obvious level of pride in its appearance. Congratulations on all the good work achieved to date and good luck with your future endeavours.

