

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Slane**

Ref: **449**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **230**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	230	227

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that, following the comments made by last year's judge, more detail had not been submitted in relation to this category of the competition. More elaboration is required in your responses on the application form and a more detailed three to five year work programme outlining a time scale for the achievement of your aims and objectives is necessary. Your map was extremely basic and gave no information on the location of the various areas of interest in the locality which would have been useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

There are a number of well maintained and well cared for stone buildings within the village. Of note was Moloney's and the Health Centre, both of which were well maintained. Both the Catholic Church and Church of Ireland and its grounds were greatly admired and the National school appeared quite fresh with well maintained grounds. The Poet's Rest is an attractive stone pub and the Cunningham Arms Hotel was also admired as was Slane House Pub. The Garda Station looked well, although its boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition. The modern stone Credit Union was admired.

Landscaping:

Further maintenance and development of the viewing point above the river on the Dublin Road is required. The timber and concrete bench in the picnic mentioned in last year's report was still in need of urgent attention. The cemetery and adjacent picnic area were well maintained and an attractive planted area on the Navan Road was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your response in relation to this category of the competition was again somewhat basic. You mention the ongoing development of the wildlife area at Lynches Field. Slane is a prime location for numerous wildlife habitats given its riverside location and abundance of mature trees in the vicinity of the village - in particular the castle grounds. There are a number of ideas for developing this aspect of the competition in your Tidy Town's handbook.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. In a village of Slane's size even one or two outbreaks of litter create a bad impression. A number of bottles were spotted on the Dublin Road and more litter was evident further along this road, in particular at the viewing point above the bridge and also by the traffic lights on this road. More litter was noted on the Navan Road.

Tidiness:

It would be marvelous to see the development and restoration of the old mill adjacent to the river. The recycling area was quite neatly maintained. In terms of street furniture, directional signs outside the cemetery appeared somewhat flaky and the public lavatory seems somewhat obtrusive. Perhaps it would be possible to ask Meath County Council to supply one of a more traditional style to suit the character of the village? A rather neglected building set back from the street adjacent to this, appeared somewhat forlorn.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was good. A rose clad cottage on the Dublin side of the village was admired. The adjudicator noted development taking place at the very significant Georgian houses on the square at the village crossroads. It is to be hoped that these will be in keeping with the character of the village and, most importantly, retain their timber sash windows. The green space of Abbey View Estate was well maintained. Attractive houses were noted on the Navan Road, such as Castle Hill with its entrance onto the road and, in particular, the council houses set up beyond the grassy bank. Foxgloves to a cottage garden, also on this road, created a very jaunty appearance. Do ensure that you encourage planting of a permanent nature such as trees to new developments. Pretty cottage gardens on the Drogheda Road also created a very good impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. Verges appeared somewhat rough on the Dublin Road, particularly by the welcome sign, where the grass had been cut back but cuttings not removed. This road affords the visitor a marvelous view to the stone ruins beyond. On the Derry Road again the grass had been cut back, but the dead cuttings not removed, which had revealed litter. Do discourage advertising hoardings. The Drogheda Road was well presented although weeds were apparent to the kerbsides.

General Impression:

Slane is an attractive estate village which continues to maintain its unique character. Do ensure

that future development respects this heritage.