

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Summerhill**

Ref: **165**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **194**

Category: **C**

Date: **05/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	6	5
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	194	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the application form and additional information that followed. The judges were glad to hear that there is an awakening of interest - it takes time for people to settle into a community. But it's sad to see that there are only two members of the community involved with the Tidy Towns. Now that there is a renewed interest it is the time to recruit - good luck. There was a great deal of traffic through the village, a village which itself is very picturesque. There is quite a contrast between the old and the new within the village and it is a priority to link these successfully.

The Built Environment:

A number of premises including the Londis Store, Shaws, the Pharmacy and garage looked well. The Community Hall was also tidy and the window boxes were noted. These will come on later in the summer. The broken fencing at the entrance did need attention. It is wonderful for the village to have such amenities as the tennis courts and the centre. The fencing at the entrance to the tennis courts also needed attention. Work had been undertaken near to the entrance - ground cover is required; an example could be the use of Hypericum which grows well in these conditions. Stephen Fisk Cars was almost complete and the area around it looked clean and new. The Industrial Estate had some nice tree planting though quite an amount of litter was evident along the roadside.

Landscaping:

The landscaping throughout the village was varied. The judges would suggest the use of shrubs and perennials rather than the annuals some of which were planted under the trees and looked out of place. There was an overuse of weed killer in places though this effect may have been due to the recent hot weather. It is suggested that you use one/two colors in the planting throughout the village in order to link the various approach roads and the centre, although the tubs in place were admired and well done on your persistence. Mulching was being undertaken on the Dunboyne/Kilcock road - presumably as a weed suppressant as well as recycling the hedge trimmings - well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Commendations on the recognition of berry bearing trees over other species as these do indeed satisfy the birds and attract more of them to the area. The village ponds are a problem and the algal residue was not pleasant - what are the plans for these - possibly if not water - could they be filled with fine gravel or use as a base to create a rockery - though this may be taking away from the history of the village. A strategic plan is required for wildlife in the village and its environs. You could do this in conjunction with the primary school as this is part of their curriculum and would make them more aware of their surroundings.

Litter Control:

There were a few pieces of litter in parts of the village, though it was not too bad and invariably it was along the roadway and probably came from passing traffic. The litter bin at the tennis courts required attention and throughout the village further litter bins may help to ensure that the village becomes totally litter free. It was good to see the recycling facilities for cans in the primary school and also the recycling facilities in the carpark of the community hall.

Tidiness:

The village had a tidy appearance though this was mainly prevalent in the centre of the village. The approach roads required additional maintenance with margin mowing more suitable to the outer limits towards the speed signs.

Residential Areas:

Hillview was well kept - the Cotoneaster on the inside wall will look well as it grows. The use of trees and shrubs and those that are low maintenance are recommended for estates as they both make impact and do not draw on people's time. The older stone houses throughout the centre of the village really create its character - it is a pity that a use cannot be found for these. There used to be a coffee shop in one of them - perhaps as the village has increased in size that there would be demand now again for either a coffee or craft shop to occupy one of these buildings. The estate on the Enfield road was well presented and petunia baskets were noted on some premises. There is a need for a number of stands of single species trees to the back of the community centre on the grassy area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This is certainly a section that required attention. There was no advance sign on the Rathmoylan road and the roadside needs to be maintained. There were weedy areas along the Trim road and also along the Enfield road and this contributed to the untidy atmosphere on the approach roads. It was noted that paving was being undertaken at the Rathmoylan junction and this will improve matters.

General Impression:

Summerhill is a thriving village with a natural advantage of being planned and therefore contributing to its potential in doing well in the competition. It is important that the character is retained and it is a pleasant place to visit and judge. Best of luck with recruitment and future work and don't get disillusioned - many of the winners started with only one or two people.