

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Horseleap**

Ref: **725**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **180**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 25                | 25                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 30                | 34                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 28                | 28                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 11                | 10                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 29                | 26                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 12                | 12                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 16                | 16                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 23                | 22                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 6                 | 6                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>180</b>        | <b>179</b>        |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. This was a first inspection for this adjudicator who was struck by the dramatic sculpture of the horse in the village centre. You have a village with a great deal of through traffic. As mentioned last year, you are in need of a phased development plan that will chart the way forward. Ideally, your plan should be done in association with the community. We suggest you contact the local authority and seek advice on how to progress.

### The Built Environment:

You have many large and small buildings in need of improvement. Your largest building is the church which commands a focal spot on this busy road. Some landscaping would benefit here and may well spur others into action. Its adjacency to a garden centre would make it convenient for advice and supply of appropriate shrubs. The National School is well presented, despite the poor entrance from this busy road. Perhaps the school boundary fencing could be replaced. Unfortunately you have some derelict and unoccupied buildings keeping your marks down in this section.

### Landscaping:

The area is ideal for tree planting and you should embark on the planting of indigenous trees: oak, lime, beech, maple and chestnut. Many mature trees illustrate the value of tree planting for the

next generation. Your two principle approach roads would benefit from landscaping and perhaps a flower garden could be developed on each of the two entrances. Such a development would also slow down traffic and identify the village more clearly. There is some good individual evidence in and around the village and we commend those who keep their premises to such a high standard. The area around the horse sculpture should be presented to higher standard.

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

You might consider organising a wildlife project with the school authorities. Commence by listing the popular and prevalent wild bird and animal species of the area. This might stimulate interest and lead to greater appreciation.

### **Litter Control:**

There were pockets of litter but not of a serious nature. In general, the village was well presented and this is praiseworthy. Litter control is improving nationally and is good to witness Horseleap playing its part.

### **Tidiness:**

You have a good deal of dereliction, poorly presented open spaces, unoccupied houses and broken boundary walls, all creating untidiness. This will only be remedied by the full cooperation of property owners and the application of a phased development plan.

### **Residential Areas:**

As mentioned, many houses and gardens are well presented but there is no evidence of any coordinated effort to raise your standards.

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

The main roads are well presented and cater for a great deal of traffic. Side roads are in need of grass and hedge cutting. Signage is poor and the 'caution, children crossing' is in need of replacement. It is also concealed from view by the parking of chained trailers to pole on the street. Side and back areas are now a core part of the competition and centres are urged to keep this in mind in their efforts.

### **General Impression:**

The village has much to commend it but you need the backing of the community and a plan that will guide in your works. We commend the committee on their dedication and commitment, but Tidy Towns is all about making it everybody's business.