

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Birdhill**

Ref: **663**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **265**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	36	34
Landscaping	40	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	25	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	32
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>255</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thanks for the excellent "Reaching for the Top" work plan for 3 years forward and also the diagrammatic map of the village.

The plan, which is ambitious but achievable, will need input from all organizations and indeed individuals in the Parish if it is to be a success.

I have no doubt, judging by efforts to date, that this will be forthcoming from all and sundry. The consultative process entered into with North Tipperary County Council and other statutory bodies will pay dividends long term.

### The Built Environment:

Despite the fact that it is on the N7 and subject to incessant traffic and all that goes with it Birdhill always seems to look its best no matter the season.

Some excellent camouflaging work has been undertaken at the Old Birdhill Co Op and indeed the addition of churns identifies the area as having a strong dairy farming tradition.

The Bus Stops were in excellent condition.

Both Hostelrys were very well presented with excellent choice of paint colours.

Good to see the Tipperary Crystal Building in new hands, Browser's have maintained a high level of presentation.

The Larann Road Eireann Station deserves mention as it has been improved upon substantially over

the last number of years.

It would be ideal if additional lengths of footpath could be provided on both main entrances and indeed on the Newport Rd, but I presume that the level of traffic militates against this from a purely safety perspective.

It is noted that this has been inserted as one of the many sub objectives of the Development Plan.

### **Landscaping:**

Pairc an Ein Fhinn is an example of Community, Public and Private Cooperation at its best. Sapling trees are staked and identified in excellent fashion, as the years pass these will mature and be a testament to those that showed the foresight to provide this wonderful amenity.

The commemoration and recognition plaques is a unique and novel idea as is the Gardeners Shed. The planting arrangements in the village and on the periphery are up to the usual high standards that one expects of Birdhill.

On adjudication day a number of residents were observed diligently tending to the beds that adorn the village.

The preservation and protection of existing trees in the village centre and its environs is of paramount importance for the future.

Overall an excellent effort in this particular section and certainly at very least on par with other years standards.

Its fine setting high standards maintaining them over a duration of time is the key and Birdhill has succeeded in doing just that.

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

In this section the emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment.

The objective outlined in your plan to further develop and enhance the village green and Pairc An Ein Fhinn will address this and identify areas for special treatment.

The Information Boards provided in the Pairc gives valuable information to both the local and visitor alike on the various species of wildlife in the surrounding areas.

Pine Martens are now an endangered species and are very rare in most counties.

The wildflower garden will help conserve various species of insects native to the locality.

To plan for the future the Committee should keep schoolchildren involved on a regular basis, no doubt many were delighted to be identified on the original Pairc Na Baisti list.

### **Litter Control:**

I cannot say that the Village was litter free on adjudication day but it would be a trite churlish to be over critical given the location of Birdhill and the constant traffic that passes through on a daily basis.

It is good to note that the Committee has involved the wider community to get involved in regular clean ups, it is very unfair to place the burden on a small number of volunteers most of whom are involved in other tidy Towns activities.

### **Tidiness:**

This adjudicator took on board the comments in last years report and noted that there was an improvement on the Ballina Rd property.

Proliferation of hoardings is not something specific to Birdhill but a country wide problem, and this year was not helped by posters of local election candidates.

Thankfully most of these have been removed by party workers - there were a few exceptions notably one unsuccessful high profile Euro Election candidate.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard in this section was very much in line with other years. The Village does not have a concerted housing development or estate and in fact is a residential area by definition. All premises both public and private were maintained to a high standard and obviously residents have pride in their respective places of both business and abode.

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

As stated in a previous section the provision of additional footpaths on both entrances to the Village would be very beneficial and allow safer access for people walking.

This could be coupled with provision of a better traffic calming system and a possible need for pedestrian crossing at the core of the Village.

This two fold measure would encourage more people to enjoy the amenities such as the green area and the new Pairc.

The main entrances were well presented complemented by nice planting arrangements on the main N7 route

The secondary entrances from Ballina, Newport and O'Briens Bridge were also well tended with verges cut back in an acceptable manner.

### **General Impression:**

Birdhill is benefiting from the efforts of a strong committee and indeed the Community as a whole. All have contributed to the way the Village is presented and this is no mean feat given the level of through traffic.

I feel that Birdhill would be appreciated more by the transient traveller if there was a better traffic calming system in place that would allow easier access to the business premises in the Village.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The achievement created in Birdhill -despite the village being divided by a steady stream of traffic, deserve great praise and credit is due to all involved in the work of this village. The Village makes a contribution both to the residents of the village and those that pass through without ever stopping.

The spectacular floral displays give wonderful summer colour to the roadside – but Birdhill does not depend on these alone. The Ein Fhinn Garden and sculpture is beautifully put together using very good materials. The Pairc Ein Fhinn is also a wonderful development and the standards in the park are very high – the family trees, wild areas, picnic tables and general upkeep make this park very welcoming and with time this will improve greatly. Stonework is also a very good feature of the village. The approach roads and way to the railway station are all well cared for and make Birdhill a lovely village.