

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlepollard**

Ref: **421**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **223**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>218</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application, detailed map and plan. Though evidently great care had gone into preparing the map a small scale outline drawing of the entire town would be useful in helping to create an overview or picture in the adjudicator's mind. It is good to see such an active committee and to see that school children and the wider community are involved as well as the public bodies. This approach is fruitful as Castlepollard continues to progress in the competition.

### The Built Environment:

There are many finely presented buildings in Castlepollard, the Maple Nursing Home, Murrays Estate Agents and Farrellys Bar are fine examples. The front of the Londis shop on the Ford road needs a little work. On the day of adjudication attractive new lanterns were being erected which will add nicely to the streetscape. The School and Fire Station opposite it are very well maintained. Renovation work was visible at the old Church on the Delvin road. Good progress in the Square in relation to car parking-well improved. Derelict sites remain an issue for Castlepollard. The new 'One Stop Shop' is a fine architectural example and the strong colour works very well. A nice addition to the streetscape.

### Landscaping:

The clever use of strong complementary colours in the flowering window boxes throughout the town is noteworthy. Well done. The continuous landscaping development is beginning to pay dividends, particularly in the Square area. Remember to keep a strong focus on this area as you develop your next plan of long term objectives.

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

Nice ivy on some of the houses around the square. The out of town Picnic area is well sign-posted and looks well with lovely stone features. Good to hear of the new walks. Are the school children involved in the wildlife plans?

### **Litter Control:**

Castlepollard was relatively litter free on the day of inspection; this is commendable considering the size of this rural town and how busy it is. The Recycling area is very neatly kept beside the town hall and was being used at the time of inspection!

### **Tidiness:**

Unfortunately, excessive use of weed killer was apparent and this gave an impression of untidiness in some areas. Otherwise, the centre of town looked very tidy, as did most approach roads. Verge side road cutting was underway on the day of visit.

### **Residential Areas:**

Some of the houses on the Delvin road need painting. The houses on the Coole road are well kept as are the houses opposite the GAA Pitch. Some of the older residences surrounding the square look very well with their ivy and window box combinations. Local pride is evident throughout the town. A good category.

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

Mullingar approach road looks good. The Fore approach road is neat. Some nice use of flower beds on all approach roads into the town. Overgrown verges were being cut on the day of inspection. Make sure grass is collected to avoid discolouration of new growth. Ongoing improvements are evident on all approach roads and will no doubt greatly improve as this work draws to completion.

### **General Impression:**

Castlepollard continues to improve - good effort evident in all categories. There has been great progress over the initial five year plan and the adjudication panel look forward to the next phase - well done to all involved!