

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collinstown**

Ref: **21**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	30
General Impression	10	6	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>204</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your map and application form. A hand-drawn map on the grid paper provided would be useful during adjudication as it would illustrate areas of new plantings, work in progress, proposed development areas etc. A longer term development plan would also be useful to focus residents, schools and public bodies on the overall vision for the village.

### The Built Environment:

Derelict buildings are clearly a problem for the village; the one with the collapsing rusty galvenised roof is particularly unsightly. It is hoped that these properties will be sold on and restored in the coming years. The Church area is neat and tidy but the railings need painting. The extensive use of grey paint on the church walls and the community centre elicits a sombre feeling - perhaps some stronger colours could be introduced to lift the village? The National School grounds and building are very well maintained. The grotto area looks very well. The Lough Lene Inn pub looks well with it's nice hanging baskets however the door area needs painting and the pump in front of it needs attention. The square in front of the Maypole pub is very well presented. Overall there is quite a bit of construction taking place in the village and this is no doubt impinging on the overall impression of the built environment. Hopefully, when this is complete the overall impression will greatly improve.

### Landscaping:

On the Mullingar approach the flowerbeds are overgrown. A lovely pump outside "The Lough Lene Inn" is in terrible condition. Surrounding kerb stones are broken and the peeling paint detracts from the actual pump which also needs painting. With a little work and some suitable planting this could be a very attractive feature for the village centre. There are some lovely mature trees surrounding the village; additional planting would help to link the village together.

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

No detailed plan was available - apart from a mention that this is part of the Lough Lene area development plan. Valuable marks are to be gained in this section, and do try to involve local children.

### **Litter Control:**

It was a pity to see so much litter in evidence on the day of inspection. The bin in front of the Gala shop in the village centre was overflowing and had an amount of litter around it.

### **Tidiness:**

Apart from a few well presented and maintained areas, the village is generally untidy in appearance; this is made worse by litter and the amount of construction underway. It is hoped that as these projects near completion and derelict buildings are restored, tidyness in general area will improve.

### **Residential Areas:**

The Council estate is in poor condition on the Mullingar approach. The residences on the Castlepollard approach look very well and commitment is evident. A mix of some very well well kept areas and some not so good. Are representatives from the various residential areas on board? Perhaps some form of competition would increase awareness and interest?

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

All the signs are in need of cleaning. Flowerbeds/shrubs are overgrown, particularly in front of 'Collinstown' signs. Verge cutting on all approach roads is needed. The speed signs on the Delvin approach road are vandalised. There is quite an amount of Grafitti present on bins and signs. The grass margins on the Delvin approach roads are unkept and overgrown. Broken fence on the right is a pity as it could be a lovely feature.

Nice stone seating area on Castlepollard road; flower beds, however, are overgrown here also. "The Pound" stone features and flower beds look well and are well maintained. Roads and footpaths are generally in need of work.

### **General Impression:**

Untidy and a little disappointing. Litter and untidiness in most areas. The centre of the village could be made very attractive with a little effort. Collinstown has lots of potential to do very well in this competition. The centre of the village with its nice layout where all roads lead to a central junction could be developed into a wonderful focal point. While it is appreciated that quite a lot of construction is taking place around the village, greater effort and coordination is needed to win back valuable marks. Good luck to all involved.