

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glasson**

Ref: **707**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **243**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/07/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 44 | 43 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 22 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 33 | 29 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 32 | 33 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 243 | 237 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for the application and plan. The commitment to improving the village is evident and the level of involvement and communication with all residents and relevant interests is to be commended. The rose theme is becoming more evident each year and greatly enhances the overall visual appeal of the village.

The Built Environment:

Most buildings in the village looked extremely well and the ongoing commitment of the committee is evident. The climbing roses on most were impressive and attractive - well done. The houses on the left opposite Grogans while very well maintained could perhaps be enhanced to reflect the pretty 'rose village' theme though the use of coloured exterior paint. This would provide a very attractive backdrop for the climbing roses and would perhaps make them a little easier to maintain considering the level of passing traffic. It is good to hear the Heritage Centre is being used by locals.

Landscaping:

The river plan is most welcome. The path when complete will be a lovely addition to framing this area. It is good to hear the horticulturist is being involved in the selection of plants and roses. The addition of a new tree will hopefully assist with discouraging traffic from pulling up on the grass and

killing it, as is evident at present. The adjudicators look forward to seeing the finished product. Overall the landscaping of the village is well planned and maintained. The pump area could be further enhanced to highlight its presence. The white rose bed is interesting and looks well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Delighted to see steps have been taken to draw up a plan for this area and that advice has been taken from the wildlife officer and environment. Also noted is the fact that berried plants are being planted to attract wild birds and other wildlife. The erection of bat boxes is to be commended. A photographic competition is a great way of increasing wildlife awareness - good to see increased effort and interest in improving marks in this category.

Litter Control:

No litter was visible on the day of inspection. It was good to see that the stream area was litter free. The recycling facilities were also very well maintained. The "tidy up" mornings are an excellent idea and it is good to hear they are well supported. Good Work!

Tidiness:

Glasson is generally a very tidy village. The wall of 'Unique Bathrooms' carpark area from the Ballykeeran approach road needs painting. The car park area itself was a little untidy with an old ariel lying around and lots of pallets. The Signage for "Walderstown Road Races" were unsightly and took from the Glasson sign on the approach road from Ballymahon. The Road sign cleaning programme is a great idea and one that many villages/towns could learn from. Well done!

Residential Areas:

The residential areas in Glasson are very well maintained. As the landscaping of these houses matures the approach roads to the village will be further enhanced. The stone walls in front of the houses behind the white rose bed needs to be repaired at one corner and could perhaps be further enhanced by some more complementary wall flora.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general, all approach roads were well maintained and marginal verge cutting in evidence. On the Ballymahon road the "end of speed zone" sign was missing and looked unattractive. The gate at the top of the lane between the Garda Station and the Midland Health Board needs some attention as does the Midland Health Board Building. The Ballymahon approach road will be further enhanced when the river plan is complete and the wall becomes more of a feature. Some marginal verge cutting is needed on the road opposite Centra further up from the river development.

General Impression:

Glasson is a very attractive village and is improving every year despite challenging traffic issues and a growing community. The concentration on the wildlife section is admirable and it is great to see all elements of the plan now coming together - well done to all involved!

Second Round Adjudication:

Glasson has made great strides forward. The approach roads with well mown grass verges, stone walls and prolific roses were much admired. The expansive verge makes a wonderful foreground to the undulating landscape on the Longford approach. The riverside next to the Emo filling station was a little overgrown but the amenity area across the road looked well. Some weedy side areas, forecourts and road edges on the side roads did regrettably have a negative impact. Although

outside the village limits, the distinctive gate lodge on the road past O'Rourke Fireplaces with litter and weeds was disappointing. The Heritage Centre with white painted windows was especially admired.