

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Askamore**

Ref: **228**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **202**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>197</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information and for the map sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of FAS and, most importantly, your local community for your efforts. Three years into the competition this is very encouraging indeed and all concerned are to be congratulated. You received an in-depth report from the Adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

### The Built Environment:

The Church and Community Centre are being very well maintained and looked very nice. The walls of the village are a great attraction and the cleaning of them and work carried out to them was noticed. Askamore does not have very many commercial premises, but Doran's Shop looked very nice. Both graveyards are very neat and tidy and car parks are also being well maintained. Obviously a lot of work has gone into this aspect of the competition. Well done to all concerned.

### Landscaping:

Flowers and shrubs, where presented, looked very nice and are being well looked after. The Church grounds is very nice and the area between the Church and the Graveyard was much admired with

some lovely trees to be seen which are a gift from planting in the past. The hanging baskets are a lovely feature as indeed are the tubs of flowers, all of which create a lovely atmosphere in Askamore. Additional sowing in the area of the Community Hall was also noted. As part of any future planning, do try to identify other areas where trees and shrubs could be planted which will give some colour on an all-year round basis. Trees planted now will be for the future and posterity will thank you for them. In this connection, seek the help of your Local Authority who will probably have someone on their staff suitably qualified to advise you.

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

Your comments under this heading were noted but, if at all possible, try to do a wildlife project which would enhance further the appearance and attractiveness of the village. Perhaps simple project like the provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables could be undertaken by your school children with possibly a wild bird notice board indicating what can be seen locally. Again, perhaps there is somebody in your locality who is knowledgeable on this subject. Alternatively consult with Duchas or its successor.

### **Litter Control:**

Askamore was litter-free on adjudication day. All concerned are to be congratulated on this fine achievement.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner which again reflects greatly on the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their environment.

### **Residential Areas:**

Individual houses are being very well looked after and many had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day. These were a joy to behold and this type of individual effort is an important part of the competition. In a small centre you cannot succeed without it.

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

The village name stone signs looked very nice. In general, approach roads were reasonably well presented. Adjudication normally takes place from between the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs, whichever you opt for and verges should be trimmed from there on in, but bearing in mind the advice given in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wildflowers and wildlife habitat. The appearance of approach roads is important as it sets the tone for the rest of the village. Road surfaces are good and appear to be well maintained.

### **General Impression:**

It was this Adjudicator's first visit to Askamore and I was very impressed with what you are doing in a small community situation. Although the village is small, it is suggested that you might try to identify a number of projects which could be carried out on a year to year basis - say over the next three years - that which you might convey to paper and then use as an annual check list to see how you are progressing or otherwise. Do not try to do too much in the first year - work within your physical and financial resources. Real progress can be made in the competition through planning and attention to detail and, in this connection, the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Askamore next year to see further progress made.

