

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Nurney**

Ref: **172**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **215**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>210</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Nurney Residents Association is fortunate to have a high level of support from the local community. Hopefully in years to come this will also extend to an active physical participation in your work. The very ancient High Cross is a fascinating piece of heritage to have - good luck with your efforts to gain access and make people more aware of its significance. The historical study that the school children are undertaking of the graveyard seems like a very interesting one. You appear to have a competent approach to conservation. Do try to get copies of the Department of the Environment's guidelines in this regard. Your efforts to make the village look as natural as possible is also to be highly commended. This would appear to be the last year of your five year work plan (which made very interesting reading). The adjudicator was particularly pleased to see that you have been adding to and supplementing it as time went by, which is evidence of your enthusiasm and commitment to it. Be sure to prepare a new one for next year's competition.

### The Built Environment:

The charming Church of Ireland looked extremely well and the study of its graveyard has been previously mentioned in this report. The charming houses angled to the crossroads are unusual and most interesting. The adjudicator was pleased to note that one had retained its original sash windows, which makes a distinct difference to the proportions and fenestration of a facade. You express an active enthusiasm for the maintenance of the character of the village, so do encourage the retention (and replacement where required) of up and down sash windows such as these. The

school and grounds were very nicely maintained.

### **Landscaping:**

The attractive and colourful planting at Hillview Estate was admired, with its attractive granite street furniture. The new planting, set in timber sleepers, by the newly revealed granite wall opposite the Nurney Inn was also admired, with its colourful display of pansies and clematis. The village pump at the top of the village was simply presented but will need painting before next year's competition. The attractive incidental at the top of the village at the Newtown side was admired as were the tubs filled with flowers in the village centre.

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

Wild flowers such as roses were apparent to the hedgerows on the Newtown Road and the road to the National School. Stone walls which had been planted with wild flowers were noted on the Tinryland Road. Your provision of berried plants at the bottom of Hillview to attract the birds is a commendable one. Do read your Tidy Towns handbook for clues regarding the possibilities of further projects in this category of the competition. These could take the form of the construction and erection of bird tables and nesting boxes, sowing of wildflower gardens, erection of wildlife information boards - all of which could involve the local schoolchildren.

### **Litter Control:**

Congratulations on your well deserved award in the Carlow Litter League. The village was virtually litter free on adjudication day. However some was visible on the Tullow Road which created a bad impression, as even one or two papers are all the more evident in a village of Nurney's size.

### **Tidiness:**

The recycling area is an attractive area tucked in as it is off the road, in the planted area at the Hillview Estate. It looks most attractive and discreet and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the new trees in this area when complete. The recycling sign however, appeared quite grubby and should be washed down. A tin shed beside the Village Green should be repainted in its traditional red or green colour before next year's competition.

### **Residential Areas:**

The magnificent house with its traditional sash windows at the crossroads has been previously mentioned, elsewhere in this report. Most of the houses along the main street looked very well and fresh and Hillview Estate was extremely well maintained.

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

The Leighlinbridge Road is an attractive entrance into the village, with its well cut grass verges from the village nameplate and magnificent overhanging horse chestnut tree. On the Tullow Road the village nameplate appeared quite grubby and lop-sided and the children crossing sign was also grubby. The Newtown Road was not maintained to the same standard and its nameplate was quite obscured by overgrowth. Do try and strike a balance in order to achieve a natural appearance to your approach roads - although they should not look over manicured - neither should they look wild and neglected! The Tinryland Road, in contrast, was attractively maintained with well tended grass

verges and planted beds. The junction signage near the crossroads at the village centre however was rather grubby.

### **General Impression:**

Nurney is an attractive village which is steeped in historical heritage. Good luck with your future work - your approach to the further enhancement of the village seems to be a very practical and sensible one.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**