

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **St Mullins**

Ref: **435**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	35	25
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	235	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

SMART or St. Mullins Amenity and Recreational Tourism Ltd show a distinct care and commitment to their environment and the unique historical and architectural heritage that the village possesses. St. Mullins is a centre that is steeped in history with its Norman Motte and Bailey, Round Tower, Monastic Settlement, Holy Well, Medieval Fair Green and Celtic High Cross. It obviously has a fascinating history and is fortunate in regards to its natural amenities such as the River Barrow and the Red Bog. Your three year work programme appears to mostly concentrate on maintenance which is quite sensible given the sensitive nature of the village. Your work with the Heritage Service is to be commended and will no doubt be of great benefit to the future conservation of the village's fine historic inheritance. Your fingerpost signage indicating areas of importance and significance is most discreet and appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The stone toilet building is discreet and quite in keeping with its surroundings. It was quite clean and neat on adjudication day. The Heritage Centre in the church appeared to be closed at the time of adjudication. The local pub looked well. St. Mullins and its environs is fortunate in relation to the number of traditional metal gates in its vicinity. A number of these will need repainting before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

Doctor Betsy Hickey's landscaping plans made interesting reading. Landscaping throughout the village is discreet and reflects its rural nature and also respects its historic heritage i.e. the Mediaeval Fair Green is maintained as is, and the Norman Motte and Bailey are protected and merely requires grass cutting. The attractive planting by the riverside area and provision of fishing areas for people with disabilities is quite admirable. The planting around the stone wall of the graveyard looked most attractive with its ferns, montbretia and foxgloves and well maintained grass verges. The graveyard itself was very well maintained and the attractive timber benches were greatly admired. The picnic table and planted area by the riverside were previously noted. Items such as a cart on the Fair Green and window boxes on the bridge had, by their empty appearance, yet to be planted on adjudication day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting of native trees such as oak, ash and holly is highly commendable. The wildlife area behind the Motte and Bailey where you were hoping to create a new eco - system and wildlife habitats will be very interesting to watch progress. Your implementing the provisions of the wildlife plan and the proposal to include Bahana Wood in the Neighbourwood scheme is a commendable one. Your encouragement of children in relation to feeding the birds and erecting nesting boxes is to be commended. The re-designation of Drummond Bog as a natural heritage area (being the only natural raised bog in the South-East) is a marvellous achievement. The wildlife board by the river was admired and your provision of a composting area is to be highly commended. There was very noisy evidence of a rookery on adjudication day!

Litter Control:

This was extremely good on the day with little evidence of litter throughout the village.

Tidiness:

The green bins were noted at the entrance to the graveyard. As you are aware of yourselves a couple of derelict buildings such as the cottage by the well and the derelict mill building by the riverside are problem areas and hopefully these will be resolved in the not too distant future. A broken stone wall near the well should also be repaired before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

Some outbuildings in a farmyard on the Borris Road should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition. They are quite charming in their particular location and add much to the impression created on this approach road. St. Mullins is fortunate, for the most part, in its good stock of housing. The attractive freshly painted houses and cottage gardens by the quayside were particularly admired, as they have extended their area of interest across the street to the side of the stream. Another attractive garden was admired opposite the well with its marvellous displays of lupins and roses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A grubby nameplate created a bad impression on the New Ross side of the village. The sign to St. Moling's well appeared quite rusty and should be attended to before next year's competition. Wild roses, foxgloves, blackberry blossom and ferns were admired in the hedgerows. The village pump was simply presented with a stone wall surround. However, its planters appeared empty and the pump will need repainting before next year's competition. However the attractive pansies at the base of the yield sign were admired. Directional signs at the Fair Green appeared a little bit rusty.

General Impression:

St. Mullins is a fascinating village with a wealth of historical and architectural heritage from a number of past centuries! It is presented to the highest of standards and was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit for the first time on adjudication day.

Second Round Adjudication:

The combination of the river, stream and historic elements makes St. Mullins a very interesting place to visit. The hedges had all recently been severely cut back but the grass verges clearly had been regularly cut. The expansive greens in the village centre were admired. Weeds were evident here and there, notably at the base of walls and in yards. Litter commendably was not a problem. Those buildings which had been freshly painted looked very well. The water pump was well displayed. In conclusion the village was by and large presented to a high standard. Attention to seemingly minor details are required from now on.