

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh**

Ref: **725**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **202**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 30                |                   |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 40                |                   |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 27                |                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 16                |                   |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 26                |                   |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 13                |                   |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 21                |                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 22                |                   |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 |                   |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>202</b>        |                   |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to the competition and congratulations on the amount of work achieved to date. The twelve person committee are obviously committed to making their home place the best that it can possibly be. Thank you for the completed application form, the interesting map and other documentation. This later documentation presented an overview of the lifestyle of Mullagh and its residents. This presented a very natural, rural village and whilst we hope that the Tidy Towns Committee will assist in making Mullagh better in a physical sense we would warn against changing it too much as it has a personality of its own. An Irish rural village such as this should not be over prettified green spaces, if kept well, can also be extremely pleasant. For next year we would suggest that you draw up a one page plan setting out your objectives for the three years. This will focus your mind on your aims and targets in the years ahead, The Fas scheme is obviously helping your endeavours but the most important aspect of Tidy Towns is that all residents become involved as well.

### The Built Environment:

The paint grants scheme which you mention is obviously working and many of the business premises were looking well. One was actually being painted in the Square on the day of adjudication. Also St.

Mary's Church and the Community Hall , together with the Health Centre were well presented. Unfortunately, there are some derelict premises in the village and a long term solution will need to be found in the years ahead. A number of properties are for sale around the village and no doubt the new ownership will improve the same.

### **Landscaping:**

The Square is your main area for planting and the landscaping of the pump here presents a very pleasant focal point for the village. We noted that another pump is also featured in the village and both of them reflect the heritage of Mullagh. Some hanging baskets and pots were noted throughout, adding colour and interest to the buildings. In the centre of the village some of these pots were hanging on a wall which needed to be painted. The names signs on stone plaques at the entrances to the approach roads from the more major thoroughfares are a good idea and some further landscaping around the same would enhance these areas further.

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

Any planting you undertake comes under the wildlife category . However, you might like to involve the children in the local school in a specific wildlife project. Details of a number of these may be found in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **Litter Control:**

There was virtually no litter to be seen around the village during the day of our visit. Obviously your awareness campaign and the provision of litter bins have proved successful. well done.

### **Tidiness:**

The village was mostly looking neat and tidy except for some weeds on footpaths. These should be removed and the paths sprayed in may. Also there were a couple of back yards that had rather an untidy appearance which would need attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties in the village and surrounds, including new houses build one of the village and the housing estate on the other , were very well presented. It is important to remember that outside the boundary walls should also be kept to a good standard. Unfortunately one flat roofed premises in the centre of the village is unoccupied and in fact is for sale at present. Hopefully the owners will improve this residence upon purchase.

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

The stone name signs at the entrances to the road to Mullagh, as mentioned previously, are a good feature. We would suggest that the banks on the roads to both main roads should be trimmed back in their entirety. These are not a very long stretches of road and it would make a considerable difference to the appearance of Mullagh and a visitor's first impression of the village. Unfortunately, road surfaces were very poor throughout and we would suggest a meeting with Clare County Council to discuss this matter. Also, some pathways had an unfinished appearance and needed some attention. Public signage was mostly good throughout the village . Unfortunately ,one of the Slow Through Village signs had been tampered with giving a different meaning entirely to the message thereon. It would be important that acts of vandalism such as this be rectified as soon as possible in order to let perpetrators know that it will be tolerated.

### **General Impression:**

Mullagh is set in a beautiful surroundings in the midst of Co. Clare. We look to continued progress in the years ahead.