

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallins**

Ref: **455**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **183**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	
The Built Environment	40	23	
Landscaping	40	22	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	24	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	183	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Congratulations and welcome on your entry to the competition. The renewal in interest in the village is a wonderful idea and not only will physical improvements follow but also the community spirit will be enhanced. With the dramatic increase in population and the phenomenal buildings developments the creation of a community spirit is all the more important. The participation of a member in the training course is an excellent idea. The committee of 6 members is a small number for such a population size and recruitment for new members should become a priority. The plan and map provided were very useful in gaining an understanding of the village and the work planned. Traffic through the village is causing a lot of disruption. The items on the plan are very laudable and with persistence and determination these can be achieved.

The Built Environment:

The original village is almost lost in the mass of new estates and building developments. It is important that the buildings by the canal and the attractive terraces of cottages are well preserved as they form the core of the village. The church is a unique building and is well cared for. There are a number of derelict buildings in the village that hopefully these will receive attention, for example – the building opposite Maxol and another beside the Sackcloth and Ashes premises. Another building near the station presents a problem. The canal bridge is attractive and the exposed stonework looks well. The railway station appears well also.

Landscaping:

The work of grass cutting along the canal bank is excellent and this provides an appropriate setting for the canal and the village pier. The tree planting and the rose border were noted. Entrances to the housing estates provide a good degree of landscape for the village. These are well cared for and give an attractive roadside frontage. The Sallins Pier estate open space looks very attractive. The sports fields are well cared for. The enormous car parks at the railway station could be broken up by zones of narrow trees to blend this into the village context. The well cared for canal side by Odlums is attractive. There are many opportunities for tree planting through the village and hopefully this will happen in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The canal-side walks offer great opportunity for wildlife observation. These paths are well cleared and offer a lovely strolling place. Information about the variety of wildlife that might be observed while on the walks would be very useful. Two projects could be – first to gather the information, this could be done with the help of schools and local information and secondly to convey the information to people and this could be achieved by informative signboards and publications.

Litter Control:

While the work of litter collection is praiseworthy and a lot has been done, there seems to be a serious litter problem in the village. This was noted on walking through all parts of the village. Particularly – there was litter at the shops and along the roadsides. The canal banks were clean and also the area around Chapel Avenue was very clean.

Tidiness:

The good work of grass care at the canal banks gives a tidy appearance. The derelict buildings are a cause of untidiness. Some graffiti on the canal side wall opposite Odlums hopefully can be removed. There is a cluttered appearance by the Gala and Maxol forecourts. Overhead wires hopefully can be removed to underground in the future – they are underground at the railway carpark and this helps greatly. Building developments - next to the railway station are a cause of temporary untidiness but when the building is completed hopefully all will be well.

Residential Areas:

The vast number of estates gives Sallins a new face. The population growth is amazing. Competitions and information about garden care may help to promote a good spirit of garden care in estates. The open spaces in estates are well planted with a successful combination of good grass and trees as the core. Individual houses along the roadside look well and contribute to the overall picture of the village. The terrace of cottages next to the railway station and those on the main road are an important part of the fabric of the original village. Houses by the canal side are also important as original core buildings of the village and are well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The large volume of traffic on the main road is terrifying and perhaps some traffic calming measures would help. It is difficult to cross the road safely and it must be very worrisome for children and elderly. Another pedestrian crossing would help. Road surfaces are generally good but there are a number of broken surfaces and patched surfaces, which are not helpful. The footpaths are broken also in places and are a cause of concern. At a point close to Odlums approaching the railway bridge the footpath disappears- there is some space for a path behind a wall and this may be a point worth following.

General Impression:

Sallins has all the original features of the small original village. Traffic has pounded its way through the village causing much disturbance. The infrastructure required for the size of population does not exist in Sallins. With the renewal of the tidy towns committee there is a great opportunity now of furthering the needs of the village. Good progress has been made to start and the thought and planning that has happened is very positive.