

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullinalaghta**

Ref: **529**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **170**

Category: **A**

Date:

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	23
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	170	164

Overall Developmental Approach:

Mullinalaghta is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and plan summary. Perhaps you could be more specific regarding your objectives with next year's application. Mullinalaghta is located in beautiful countryside amongst wooded hills with scenic views to the surrounding countryside. We note the fingerpost for Mullinalaghta on the Ballinalee / Granard Road. Do encourage the County Council to follow through with signage and place another for Mullinalaghta at the T junction of the latter road with the Granard / Gowna Road. The broken sign for Granard at this location should also be replaced. Well done on the Fáilte information sign located on the verge across from the Community Hall. Perhaps more information could be provided on your activities related to the guided tours of Derrycassin Wood and your national tree information day.

The Built Environment:

The church and its grounds looked beautiful on adjudication day and the Community Centre was well presented also. The weather stained section of perimeter wall at the Community Centre could be cleaned and / or painted as appropriate. Both the Post Office premises and the F. Mulligan premises looked quite well as did the school from its elevated site. As noted previously, the old sign should be removed from the Anglers Rest premises and the car park here should be upgraded and landscaping rehabilitated. The car park at the John Keogh was a little potholed.

Landscaping:

The landscaped church grounds were admired with the white dove sculpture. The grass verge located opposite the graveyard was neat and mature trees here looked well but the chain link fencing doesn't add anything to the presentation here. The verge opposite the Post Office exhibited fine stands of trees. Perhaps the elevated school grounds could be landscaped and highlighted as a feature of Mullinlaghta. Landscaping and stone work inside the curtilage area of the Community Hall was noted. Flower containers were noted at a number of locations but the visual impact was weak because the containers had not been planted profusely enough or because they were not fully in bloom at the time of adjudication.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The stone wall enclosed graveyard was neatly presented. One gate enjoyed an excellence in presentation whilst another was in need of refurbishment. A bird box was noted on the verge located across from the Post Office. You refer to a nature trail and local woodland area in your submission (Derrycassin Wood). This should now be signposted with details of distance included from the village centre. You also refer to bird boxes at a number of locations. Perhaps these could be indicated on your map for next year?

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent, well done. Congratulations on your participation on the National Spring Clean Week. Your submission next year should detail your overall litter management strategy together with your daily and weekly litter control activities as these can be a source of additional marks also.

Tidiness:

Well done on the recycling point, it was being maintained neatly within the curtilage area of the Community Centre. Some cardboard was noted here beside the recycling point, it was not problematic as it was a small amount but there is a need for great vigilance in case this problem grows. The yards located to the rear of the Anglers Rest pub were untidy, perhaps solid gates would provide greater enclosure. A number of untidy yards were visible from the public road at different locations. A derelict remains near the graveyard is problematic. Hopefully the owner will improve it at some stage in the not too distant future.

Residential Areas:

A number of dwellings were admired for their presentation which included the presentation of their gardens. In particular, some at the nameplate on the entrance from the Granard Road and one just before the nameplate on the latter road also. Hedgerow is suggested for the timber post fencing of the dwelling which is set far back off the road. Some dwellings did not have roadside boundary walls or fencing, perhaps this will be addressed at some time in the future. A house and garden adjacent to the F. Mulligan premises looked well as did a garden on an elevated site near the school. Encourage all residents to present their boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls to a high standard.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The timber roofed nameplate at one entrance is charming. The traditional nameplate was in need of cleaning. The boulders which feature on the verge at the entrance from the Gowna Road remain attractive as in previous years and the Slán sign here is a nice touch. Approach roads to the village were somewhat overgrown but it was not a problem. Road edges within the village featured verge backed by high hedgerow and mature trees.

General Impression:

Mullinalaghta is a small village with nice features, perhaps the most important being your proximity to Derrycassin Woods and one of the objectives to include in your plan might be to signpost the route from the village centre.