

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Taghsinny**

Ref: **498**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **171**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	
The Built Environment	40	23	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	
Litter Control	40	27	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	17	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	171	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Taghsinny is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. We note the absence of a planned work programme with your submission and again urge you to prepare one as it is difficult to make further progress without one. Your Tidy Towns Handbook has some excellent advice on how to go about preparing a basic plan with a list of objectives that can be achieved over the next three to five years. If you don't have a handbook, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will send one to you. So far Taghsinny appears to be free from development pressures, no site notices have been observed by the adjudicator. This is a mixed blessing. It means that if the village remains unchanged it will no doubt retain its old world charm, however derelict property and eyesores caused by such will fail to be resolved in the near future, whereas with demand for prime redevelopment land, these problems would disappear. Should there be a demand for redevelopment the challenge facing a Tidy Towns group will be to assimilate new residents into the social and cultural life of the village. It is this type of information that should be supplied in your yearly submission.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland National School looked magnificent as it appears to have been recently whitewashed and painted. Its simple architectural features are most appealing. The roadside car parking area to the school was reasonably well presented. The two public houses in the village would be much improved in appearance if their dated signage was removed and weed growth taken

from the canopy of one of them. The derelict petrol pump outside of one could be attractively masked if it is not to be removed. The church and graveyard looked simple and neat.

Landscaping:

Grass verges and wide grass margins on the entrance from the Colehill approach road are being beautifully maintained. Mature trees behind the timber post fencing of the Glebe lands are magnificent. The school grounds look wonderful also being simple green areas backed by stands of mature trees. Verges on the opposite approach road are being neatly maintained. Young trees at both entrances and in the village centre are establishing themselves well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note from the Ordnance Survey Map that there is a stream running through the village, however it appears to be inaccessible and totally overgrown. The village is also within walking distance of the Inny River. Both of these natural amenities present a host of opportunities for a wildlife project and perhaps if the school children were involved this could be an important event in the life of the community, not to mention the Tidy Towns Competition. Again you are referred to your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas on competing under this heading.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent, no litter was noted on adjudication, well done. We would love to hear how you manage to achieve a litter free status of your little village.

Tidiness:

This area is most problematic in the number of derelict buildings and remains that feature in the village centre, they are quite an eyesore. Reference has already been made to the weedy canopy of pub and the derelict looking petrol pump outside. The weediness of its carpark to the side should not go unmentioned also. A number of gates presented a visual problem also. All of these problems are outside the control of the Tidy Towns Committee, this is acknowledged, however keep up the effort to bring people around to making their contribution to the life of the community. Well done on your participation in the National Spring Clean Week.

Residential Areas:

A dwelling located beside the school appears to have been freshly whitewashed or painted and looked well. As noted in previous years, some dwellings in the village centre have retained their traditional architectural features which are attractive and which hopefully will be retained upon redevelopment. In particular the double fronted house located across from the pub with derelict remains on both sides is noteworthy. Individual properties on approach roads are attractively presented in terms of buildings and curtilage areas including gardens, well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some stretches of road edges are in need of resurfacing. There were many excellent stretches of old stone wall which hopefully will be retained in the event of any redevelopment. The old service poles and associated wirescape are still prevalent within the village but it is not too much of a problem given the problems under Tidiness. Nameplates look really well. Keep up the effort to have the village signposted from neighbouring villages and from the R392 at Ballymahon.

General Impression:

Taghshinny is an attractive little village in a beautiful setting. Magnificent stands of mature trees

feature both in the village and on its doorstep in surrounding countryside. A lot could be achieved for the appearance of Taghshinny but this requires full co-operation of property owners. We wish you well for the future. Thank you for your continued participation.