

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tallanstown**

Ref: **405**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **268**

Category: **B**

Date: **29/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	268	261

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a most pleasant experience to visit the beautiful village of Tallanstown on a warm June afternoon for the purpose of first round adjudication. The adjudicator would like to thank you for the extremely detailed Map and Application 2005 file. The very high degree of detail contained in this file was quite unusual, even down to the 2005 spraying programme. It is the attention to the all important smaller details over a period of many years that has resulted in the superb presentation of Tallanstown in 2005.

The adjudicator is in total agreement with your view that the rural character of the village must be preserved. Once that is lost it will be impossible to regain. Hopfully the village will not come under too much new housing pressure, because that alone would change the village, and not necessarily for the best. The important issue is that the correct development of the right scale, location and design is considered. Your work with the Local Authority Consultant will be invaluable in that it will give you a key input in to the future vision for the village.

The Built Environment:

The immediate feeling that the adjudicator got was that the total village and surrounding residents were all fully behind and supporting the Tidy Towns efforts. The repaired stone walls blend well with the old and the key building - the old School - looked so well on adjudication day. The warm tone of the brick fits perfectly with the character of the village. It is great to see that a building that played

such an important role in the life of the village in earlier years is now playing a different but equally important role. The adjudicator has nominated this building for the Tidy Towns national Heritage Award.

Your plans in regard to wire-scape are noted and hopefully the year ahead will see progress on that important issue. The presentation of the Catholic Church was superb and the colour choice for the railing was just right. Many people elsewhere would have been tempted to paint the railings black, but your colour choice here is perfect. The Louth Arms in the village centre was extremely well presented and it was so good to see such a key building without any projecting signs. The Credit Union building also caught the eye with its simple clear and effective lettering. At the Glyde Rangers property the colour scheme is perfect and the overall standard of presentation excellent.

Landscaping:

The many many fine mature trees and natural landscaping in and around Tallanstown provide a perfect backdrop for the excellent landscaped areas in the village, most estates and all approach roads. The Maguire Park is a beautiful, most peaceful development, again with the highest standards of maintenance evident. The new furniture here is a great addition to this area.

The landscaping on all approach roads was excellently done, and the ongoing maintenance is being carried out to a very high standard. All properties appear to have got involved in the overall landscaping effort. This gives the true feeling that everyone here is behind the Tidy Towns Committee and their supreme efforts together with the supporting agencies.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Plaque at the Maguire Park is a good introduction to the wildlife of the general area and the nearby Wildlife Reserve. The sign for the reserve is excellent. It is so sad that you lost one of your wildlife areas recently, but the 'Motte' area provides an excellent wildlife facility. The contrast in presentation with the nearby Maguire Park tells its own story of differing needs between us the human population, and the wildlife population. It would be so good to have the riverside walk that you have in mind. Sometimes good projects take a long time to bring to fruition and perhaps the river walk will become a reality hopefully in the not too distant future.

Litter Control:

Litter control both in the village and on approach roads was excellent on adjudication day. A few pieces of litter were noted on the Carrickmacross road and in the river. The litter bin faced with timber at the landscaped area on the Glyde Road looked very attractive.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness was superb on adjudication day. The area opposite the cottage on the Dundalk road might be improved a little, but that is not to say that this area was untidy. The 'mural gates' on the Dundalk road were quite unusual but visually very effective. Congratulations to everyone in the village for the high standard of presentation throughout.

Residential Areas:

The vast majority of individual houses were excellently presented and most were involved in landscaping at some level. The Cherrywood estate was presented to a high overall standard and the fox sculpture at the entrance is most unusual. The row of cottages on the right on the road in from Dundalk are very attractive and must be contemporary with the earlier years of village development. The Glyde View estate was reasonably presented considering that building work is still on-going. At Tallansfield there was not a tree in sight and hopefully there are tree planting plans for this estate in the not too distant future. Castle View estate was excellently presented. The overall standard of estate development was very good

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads were presented to an extremely high standard in terms of verge and bank presentation, tree planting and landscaping. What was notable was the fact that such a high standard of verge presentation was taken quite far out from the village centre. This creates a really good feeling of anticipation as on drives towards the village centre. The centre of the village was also extremely well presented.

The adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of your sign-posting discussion with the Local Authority.

General Impression:

Tallanstown is a truly beautiful village set in lovely countryside. The village is so lucky to have a Tidy Towns Committee and a group of supporting agencies that all see the great benefits to the preservation of the rural character of the village. Well done to everyone involved.