

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullyallen**

Ref: **407**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **210**

Category: **C**

Date: **13/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Tullyallen to the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition. A Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

The successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3-5 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Local SuperValu outlet
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)

- Local School or schools
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

The Built Environment:

The thatched pub and shop are the key buildings in the core of the village formed by the beautiful Village Square. The issue of street lighting and traffic calming measures were noted as difficulties for your committee. Traffic calming measures are indeed necessary as the volume of traffic going through the village on the evening of adjudication appeared to be quite high. The signage on the premises beside the thatched pub could be improved to the benefit of that premises and the Tidy Towns effort. Perhaps lettering on a smaller scale on a timber background might be considered. The road running in front of the food store area would benefit from some kerbing to define the edge of the roadway, leaving of course suitable access for that premises. Perhaps then there might be potential for the development of a grass area, depending on ownership. At the Credit Union premises weed growth was noted near the building entrance area. At the Catholic Church the railings would benefit from re-painting and some additional landscaping here would add some colour. The interesting Battle of the Boyne plaque was noted, but so hard to find.

There is a big issue in regard to sign-posting as none of the roads appear to have destination sign-posting. Likewise some village signs are required.

Landscaping:

The Village Square is an attractive area that forms a focus for Tullyallen. The cobble lock paving together with the planting, and seating all come together to form a restful area. A colourful landscaped area was noted just across the road from the Village Square. At the road junction to the Football Field some very colourful landscaping here caught the eye.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. You have made good progress with this project. The provision of an information board in the village centre should be considered as a future project.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on the evening of adjudication and this is difficult for you to achieve with so much passing traffic. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your town / village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins is of course essential.

Tidiness:

Tullyallen was quite tidy but a very untidy area was noted near the second entrance to the Football Field and this should receive early attention. Weed growth at kerbing and at the base of walls was noted as a problem in a number of areas and this requires constant attention.

Residential Areas:

The majority of private properties were well presented and a number were obviously freshly painted recently. Some attractive gardens were also noted, and the landscaping work by property owners contributes in an important way to the overall character of your village. The housing estate opposite the food store has a fine grass area on the left hand side inside the entrance area, and the mature trees here add a lot to the overall impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The appearance of approach roads was quite uneven. In some cases some of the verge on a particular approach had been cut, but the cut grass had not been removed. On other approach roads it appeared that private individuals were keeping their verge nicely cut, but public verge areas were receiving little or no attention. Can you make a rule for yourselves and your helpers that all cut grass must be taken away on the day that it is cut. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor and mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower.

General Impression:

Tullyallen is an attractive village but traffic calming must be an urgent priority. Do pay special attention to the approach roads and the provision of sign-posting. Good luck with your future projects.

Second Round Adjudication: