

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Threemilehouse**

Ref: **636**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **212**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	37	36
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	212

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was concerned to note that no back up documentation was provided with the entry form. No village map showing your work for 2005 was included and the entry form was not of much assistance to the adjudicator. It was therefore difficult to be sure of exactly what new work had been done for the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition.

The adjudicator notes that 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. You will find that this Plan will be of great help to you in setting your objectives for the future.

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
- 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 village of Threemilehouse has a lovely inclusive feel about it, and is compact. Either by accident or on purpose the village has a black and white colour scheme that is visually quite effective. The School on the hill was very attractively presented and the grass area towards the back was very carefully maintained. However the low road boundary walls with the main road needed to be painted. Opposite, the Church looked very neat and tidy but would be enhanced by the provision of a colourful landscaped area. Perhaps the V shaped area in front of the cross might be a possibility. At the garage some screening is necessary to give this area some privacy from the main road, and perhaps timber screening about two metres high might be a possibility.

Landscaping:

There are a number of small landscaped areas in the village that are more visually effective than for example, just one larger area. These landscaped areas were well maintained and gave a great feeling of colour to this village where black and white play a larger visual role. The raised stone flower beds by the telephone box were especially eye catching. The small stream is another attractive feature of Threemilehouse.

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. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. The nearby lake should have some potential in wildlife terms for the village.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

The litter collection every day noted on the Entry Form, has contributed to the good litter control noted on adjudication day. The approach roads were relatively free of litter. You are to be congratulated on the degree of litter control that you have continued since the 2004 adjudication in June last.

Tidiness:

The vehicles that do not appear to have been used for some time on the Newbliss road could perhaps be moved to an alternative location away from public view. That area might make a good area for roadside landscaping, depending on the ownership situation. The village was generally quite tidy on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

The majority of private properties were well presented and a number were obviously freshly painted recently. Some very attractive gardens were also noted, and the landscaping work by property owners contributes in an important way to the overall character of your village. On the Newbliss approach roads some very fine landscaping displays were noted. The estate on the telephone box side of the road would benefit from the provision of some trees on the lovely green area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them. There is potential for an attractive new grass verge on the Monaghan approach road by the new post and wire fencing. Some work had been done on the approach road beyond the School and Church but more work was needed there.

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.

Do make sure that any old stone walls on approach roads are not in need of repair. Gaps due to collapse can look quite untidy. Fences should be kept in good repair and do not cut long grass that may tend to grow up through the timber fencing. Hedging on approach roads needs trimming from time to time but do avoid bird nesting time of the year..

Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme.

General Impression:

Threemilehouse is a nice village with an obvious caring community and the adjudicator wishes them

well in their work for Tidy Towns in the future.

Second Round Adjudication: