

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullaghmore**

Ref: **375**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a pleasure to visit Mullaghmore for the first time early on a fine June morning. Congratulations to your small hard working Committee on the work that they are doing. While your winter population is obviously quite low the summer population increases greatly and this increases the work load for your Committee. It is encouraging to see that you are working closely with Sligo County Council, and hopefully other agencies are assisting your efforts also.

The really 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
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local School or schools
- Village Renewal Grant Scheme

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. You might try and have this Plan in place for the 2006 competition, as it will be a great help to you. Thank you for your map that which was of great help.

The Built Environment:

Mullaghmore has a number of interesting buildings in the architectural sense such as the Sailing Club building with the roof grassed - this is most effective. The public toilets are underground but the approach area needs to be cleaned up and the presentation generally improved. The disabled access to the beach was noted and this is a facility that we do not see often enough in Ireland. The Star of the Sea is one of several prominent buildings in the village and the adjudicator wonders if any consideration has been given to painting the front facade, perhaps in cream?

Some interesting private properties in design terms were noted on the upper road together with a number of well presented older cottages.

The re-developed Pier Head Hotel will be a fine feature of the village when completed shortly.

Some of the older buildings include the most attractive gate lodge to Claspig Castle.

Landscaping:

The small and attractive landscaped area at the castle gate lodge looked very colourful and welcoming on the approach from the Sligo road. The landscaped area at the telephone boxes is another attractive feature of the village and the stone sculpture here adds interest. The pole that supports the letter box here needs to be painted.

The very large village green area is most impressive and it is one of the central features of the village. However the edge of this area at the harbour side needs to be cut. Have you considered planting some trees in this large area that are wind and salt resistant? Because of the size of the area the planting of a number of trees in clusters is suggested. However this is a long term matter for consideration that you might examine in your 3 - 5 Year Plan. There is potential for a small landscaped area in front of the some of the houses overlooking the harbour.

The landscaped area overlooking the sea beyond the Pier Head hotel is potentially attractive but is rather spoiled visually by the three boat trailers in the long grass. A further trailer was noted on the grass verge just beyond here. These trailers must belong to someone and the owners should remove them from these landscaped areas as soon as possible.

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 the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

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 –

- Marine and dune habitats
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grass lands

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.

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.

For the 2006 competition do make sure to provide information on your dunes project.

Litter Control:

It would appear that additional litter bins are required in Mullaghmore. Quite an amount of casual littering was noted in a number of area including the approach to the Pier and the public toilets. Litter was also noted on the approaches to the beach areas. It is recommended that in your 3-5 Year Plan that you have a section on a litter control plan.

Tidiness:

Quite a number of small untidy areas were noted on the approach to the village. One such area is in front of a new houses under construction as you approach the village centre. Weeds, long grass and litter were noted here. The wild and untidy long grass area overlooking the harbour could become an attractive feature of the village with a little work. Weed growth at the base of walls and kerbs was noted in several places. The careful use of weedkiller here can help, but do make sure that the dead weeds are removed. The approach road to the Pier and toilets was quite untidy and the rough narrow grass verges need to be cut. The pole for the Toilets sign is rusted and should be replaced.

On the upper road parallel to the village a number of small untidy open spaces were noted. The abandoned boat trailers beyond the Pier Head Hotel have been referred to elsewhere in this report.

Residential Areas:

Some quite interesting design was noted in both public and private buildings. Beyond the Pier some fine properties some stone built were noted. However some stone boundary walls need to be constructed in this area. Indeed the use of stone in building is a fine feature of the village, especially on the Sligo approach road. The Old Post Office is a most attractive property that is excellently maintained. The small estate on the road down to the castle gate lodge would be improved with the re-painting of a few properties and the removal of weeds at the kerbing.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach from the Sligo road is highly impressive with the combination of neatly cut verges and fine low stone walls. The undulating dune area on the right adds to the overall effect together with the trees.

You are following best practice in terms of the presentation of your verges on the Sligo approach, in that you have left uncut an area for wildlife. The approach road by the castle gate lodge needs much work and verges did not appear to have been cut in the recent past.

General Impression:

Mullaghmore is a beautiful village in a most attractive location. Your committee are doing good work but the preparation of your 3-5 Year Plan will be of great help in assisting you to achieve your future aims and objectives.

Second Round Adjudication: