

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Birdhill**

Ref: **51**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **269**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	39	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	36	34
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	269	265

Overall Developmental Approach:

Birdhill Tidy Village Committee is certainly a large one, with an eighteen strong workforce! Have you considered or do you, indeed, already put into practice, the idea of dividing up into a number of sub-committees in order to make your work easier. Your Four Year Plan is an extremely professional document, using such methods as a SWOT analysis - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, in its study in relation to the future development of Birdhill. You seems to have a good level of practical support from the local community and successful fund-raising campaigns. Your regular meetings with Shannon Development, North Tipperary County Council, FAS and CES are obviously paying dividends. Your ongoing work in relation to tackling the issue of traffic calming with the County Council is also highly admirable.

The Built Environment:

Matt the Threshers looked extremely fresh as did the Coopers on the opposite side both with wonderful colourful floral displays. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the Tipperary Crystal building had been re-occupied since last having the pleasure of visiting Birdhill - Browsers is certainly keeping up appearances in this location! The Post Office was fine as was the Railway Station. The Creamery building on the Limerick side of the village was being well maintained.

Landscaping:

Birdhill sports a good mix of seasonal flowers and permanent planting throughout in order to ensure year-round impact. The village green with its shining metal bird monument was admired. The village pump had been freshly painted and its stone paving looked well. Some damage appeared to have taken place here, as a new patch of grass had been put in place. The park has developed nicely since the adjudicator's last visit, with its freshly painted gates, stone plaque at the entrance, trellis and creeper to the single storey shed and stone bed outside planted with petunias and geraniums below the stone plaque. The tree planting by local families and children in this location is a lovely concept. The new heron and waterfall feature on the Limerick side of the village were also admired, as were the colourful floral tubs throughout. Grassy banks throughout had been well maintained - even around the bus stops on each side of the road. Your hopes in relation to providing a shelter on the Limerick bound side will hopefully be realised soon.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hand painted wildlife board at Birdhill Community Park was admired. The provision of a wild flower garden in this locality is to be applauded. It looked well in its central location, the combination of well cut surrounding grass and central longer grassed area work well, clearly indicating where the intended natural area is located. A simple timber feeding table forms the centre piece. The timber boards to the woodland area habitat were admired, although they need repainting before next year's competition. The wildflower area beside the heron monument on the Limerick side of the village was noted and admired.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. However, even one or two papers are all the more apparent in a village of Birdhill's size and essentially neat nature. A few papers were spotted behind a gate on the Newport Road and a single plastic bag was evident on the Dublin Road.

Tidiness:

The village looked extremely neat and well maintained as ever on adjudication day. Ongoing maintenance was evident throughout with work being carried out in both the Park area and along the banks of the Limerick side of the village. A gate on the Newport Road should be repainted up before next year.

Residential Areas:

Houses in the village and along approach roads were being well maintained on the day. Of particular note, was an attractive house with colourful pots on the Dublin side of the village and that adjacent to it with its magnificent display of roses overhanging the garden wall.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

New planting to banks on the Dublin Road was admired, as were the new ash trees. Attractive ground cover was noted and a bench with a retaining timber fence behind. On the Limerick approach the well maintained verges were admired, as were the attractive landscaped areas. The minor approaches from Newport and Broadford were also well maintained. Signage was generally in a good condition.

General Impression:

Birdhill is a centre which never fails to impress, even if one is merely passing through the village en route from Dublin to Limerick along this busy road. Much hard work has taken place over the years and it is highly audible that the work continues, both in terms of maintenance and subtle supplementation of the existing fabric. Well done to all concerned.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a great pleasure for your 2nd round adjudicator to visit Birdhill on an August afternoon. It is a truly impressive village, all the more remarkable because of the very high volumes of traffic that pass through - some at high speed. What is especially impressive is the inclusive environmental nature of the overall presentation – all sections within the competition are seen by the Committee as being equally important and this is reflected so strongly on the ground. This adjudicator agrees strongly with your views on the importance of the approach roads some distance outside the village – sometimes the 50 KPH (old 30 MPH) boundary definitions can be too constraining. The quality of the landscaping in Birdhill is superb in terms of species, colour and texture. Some speed limit sign poles need to be painted. On the Newport approach road the village sign is slightly overgrown by vegetation. On the day of 2nd adjudication the Park looked really well and totally litter free apart from one piece outside the black gate. The formal and informal nature of the Park is impressive, as is the fact that all trees are numbered and most trees are labeled. This makes the visit so much more interesting and worthwhile.

Congratulations to the Tidy Towns Committee and all supporting agencies, organization and individuals that have helped to create and maintain on an on-going basis this showpiece of environmental excellence.