

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlepollard**

Ref: **587**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	31	32
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>223</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application and very detailed map. As your 2000-2005 development plans nears an end it is clearly evident that much of the proposed work has been carried out with excellent results. It goes to show how such a plan can focus the minds of the community. It is hoped that the remainder of the plan is completed for next year's Tidy Towns competition.

### The Built Environment:

Barry's Pharmacy, the new retail arcade on the Mullingar road, the County Council building and the Pollard Arms are fine examples of attractive and well-presented buildings in the village. The new lanterns have enhanced the streetscape in the square greatly. The town hall is in need of a façade lift, and the adjudicator notes that this is included in your development plan for 2005. Unfortunately car parking remains a problem in the village centre and although this was proposed to be reorganised in 2003, it is hoped that for the benefit of the village that it will be carried out in the near future. Connie's Bar, while it has many fine architectural features is most certainly in need of painting especially given its location on the main approach road. The Community College on the Mullingar approach road is a fine example of modern architecture, blending into its environment. This was enhanced by the stone cladding on the boundary wall at the rear of the school, which the adjudicator noted was continuing towards the front.

## **Landscaping:**

Your letter to business and home owners in the village has certainly had the desired results in a lot of cases. This is evident by the colourful window boxes and hanging baskets displayed by some of the businesses, particularly in the square. It would be nice if more business owners would do likewise. The Children of Lir sculpture, the immaculate green area, the colourful flower beds and the new lanterns are a credit to the community. Well done to all and long may it continue.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The picnic area on the Ballyduff Road is a creative and well-presented area. It is obviously a haven for wildlife, as on inspection day, this adjudicator was more than a little surprised to spot a Kingfisher upon arrival! The area was well maintained with no litter evident. A little more signage could point people in the direction of this beautiful amenity.

## **Litter Control:**

On the day of inspection it was disappointing to see a few full refuse sacks dumped in the recycling area. Dumping was also evident on the Old Bog Road Walk. However, for such a busy town with such a through-flow of traffic, the efforts at litter control was quite evident. Would it be possible to organise a "Community Clean-Up" twice a year?

## **Tidiness:**

It was difficult to give an accurate rating for this category due to the construction work currently underway. The adjudicator looks forward to completion of same. Street sweeping and weeding was underway on the day of inspection, and it was evident that this is regularly carried out. Some signs on approach roads were obscured by overgrowth, but this could be easily addressed.

## **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas were generally well maintained, although some of the sites bordering these areas could do with either maintenance or with being screened off. The effort of many of the residents was duly noted.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As alluded to in the category "Tidiness", due to the amount of construction work underway many of the footpaths and road surfaces were either nearing completion or had been excavated to facilitate heavy machinery. It is hoped that the completion of the various works will see these routes restored or rebuilt. The use of flower beds on all approach roads provides for a very welcoming feel to Castlepollard. Most verges were well maintained, and it is encouraging to note that ducting of many service cables is scheduled for 2005. The garage on the Mullingar approach road could use some landscaping and/or colour, and as already mentioned, Connie's Bar requires attention. The landscaping outside of Mergon greatly enhances that approach to the village as does the old Parochial Hall. Castlepollard Hurling Club is colourfully presented and Egan's Garage is tastefully signed, all of which provide for a nice approach to Castlepollard.

## **General Impression:**

Despite the massive increase in population, traffic and construction Castlepollard continues to improve. It is hoped that the Tidy Towns Committee now launches a further strategy which will serve only to compliment the excellent results already achieved by the current plan which is nearing its end. A sincere congratulations to all involved!

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The town was busy on a Thursday a.m. second adjudication in August. The first impression from a first visit from this adjudicator was one of excessive poorly disciplined car parking: especially outside the Bank of Ireland. Long term you need to give the town back to the people by getting the cars off the principal streets. The green was much admired and is an important asset to the town. The Children of Lir sculpture is excellent; however, the inscriptions are poorly legible and vandalised with scrapes. This is a pity for such a rich legend. Perhaps an artist could be commissioned to highlight the text. Well done on the tree planting. The open arch of The Owel House on the square is exposing a very untidy back area that needs attention. Well done to the many individuals for their efforts with window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs. The town was really colourful throughout on adjudication day. In general good evidence of community effort and you have raised your marks again this year.