

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collinstown**

Ref: **66**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **205**

Category: **B**

Date: **20/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>200</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form. As mentioned last year a hand drawn map on the grid paper provided would enable the adjudicator to pin point exact areas of recent development. Your submission should also have included a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan. This plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the village over the next few years and the resources you will require. In addition, the works-completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Collinstown Tidy Towns committee continues to be proactive and work in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies.

### The Built Environment:

The church and school area warrants particular mention due to the excellent maintenance and presentation of both grounds and parking area. Pride of place in the village centre must go to the Lough Lene Inn, with it's warm colour, discrete signage and idyllic position. That said, the area around the village pump could do with some maintenance although its condition is understandable due to the limited car parking spaces. The pump itself was in excellent condition. There is quite a lot of construction underway in the village, and it should be noted that considerable effort seems to have been taken to blend the new developments into their existing environment. Examples would

include the stone cladding on the walls of the new estate on the Castlepollard Road. St. Feichins Church on the Mullingar Road is a wonderful example of restoration and presentation. There are signs that this effort is continuing further out the Mullingar Road with the restoration underway on the old building past the church.

### **Landscaping:**

Excellent progress has been made in this category. Hanging baskets tubs of flowers and stoned flower beds adorn the village and its environs. The village green was in a state nearing perfection on the day of inspection, and the mature trees add an elegant feel to the village.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The residents of Collinstown are to be congratulated upon achieving the European Blue Flag award, which was awarded to Lough Lene for water quality. "The Cut" is a credit to the community and hopefully will continue to thrive. The successful implementation of a long term strategy for this area could only serve to enhance this local amenity.

### **Litter Control:**

On the day of inspection it was unfortunate to note that one of the bins at the Gala Shop in the village centre was overflowing, resulting in a collection of litter around the shop. The only other cause for litter concern in the area was at park at Lough Lene. On the day of inspection the two bins nearest the entrance gates were full to overflowing with many items of litter strewn about the green area. The recycling area was obviously being used correctly as there was no sign of dumping adjacent to the bins.

### **Tidiness:**

Significant attention has been paid to weeding on the approach roads; this is evident by the browning of the dead weeds following the use of weed killer. It is advisable to revisit these areas a few days following treatment to remove the dead weeds so as to avoid this appearance. The construction in the village seems to be nearing completion and undoubtedly this will serve to further enhance your village. Repeated commendation of the village green and flower beds is deserved here.

### **Residential Areas:**

Improvement is needed in some residences on the Mullingar Road – just a little effort required – cosmetic only. In general, community pride is evident throughout the village by the manner in which gardens and houses are presented and maintained. Well done to all concerned!

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

The approach to Collinstown from all roads echoes sentiments of village pride and hospitality. For the most part signs are clean and clearly legible with flowers providing a colourful entrance to the village. Verges are neatly maintained and the stone seating area on the Mullingar Road, coupled with the "Pound" feature reinforce the ethos of the Collinstown community. Some roads and footpaths are in need of repair, but the completion of the construction work in the village should see the advent of this.

### **General Impression:**

Collinstown is a village which has begun to unlock its true potential, obviously due to the work of the committee and the community. The adjudicator looks forward to the completion of the construction work, the continuation of community effort and the successful exploitation of the superb amenities

at Lough Lene. Sincere congratulations to all concerned.