

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **St Mullins** Ref: **1155**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **243**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	243

Overall Development Approach:

Saint Mullins is welcome to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed submission which was helpful and which included your 3-year plan and your landscape plan, well done. Saint Mullins must have one of the richest cultural heritages of any village in the country and you are promoting this admirably with good interpretative facilities and of course your heritage centre. Well done gaining the support of the Heritage Services for work on the built environment. Your setting in the Barrow Valley where the river meets the sea is both a blessing in terms of beauty and a problem of course in terms of untidy deposits so your difficulty in this respect is appreciated. It is good to note that you give local history talks and guided tours to monastic sites to local school children.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings in the village are neatly presented the Heritage Centre, the S.M.A.R.T. building, public toilets, The Bar and others and it was good to note the redevelopment of building down at the quays, we look forward to the completion of these works in due course and a positive visual impact on the appearance of Saint Mullins.

Landscaping:

Your use of barge boulders in your Waterside Park is admired, well done. The Waterside Park itself is a fine development and is only affected in a negative way by the standards of the roads and some derelict looking buildings near by. We note with interest your landscaping plan and we extend warm wishes and every success in it implementation.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on the positioning of two fishing stands by S.M.A.R.T. to provide for inclusive access to the recreational enjoyment of the river. We note your excellent wildlife panels: one on the river Barrow itself and its fishstock, the other on the flora and fauna of the area, both are beautifully illustrated and being nicely maintained. Your wildlife meadow up near the moate has also been noted; perhaps another panel here detailing the specific species to be found on this site might be attempted at a later stage and perhaps the school children could become involved in this.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Saint Mullins on adjudication day there being practically no litter to be seen anywhere; the only small exception was two sizeable pieces of cardboard that had been left on the moate itself. Your problem with both day-trippers and the debris left by tide is appreciated and highlights your achievement under this title all the more.

Waste Minimisation:

We note from your submission that compost bins are available locally and that residence use the bring bank facility at Glynn. To perform competitively under this heading you will have to be seen to take steps to reduce or minimise waste and involve the entire community, school, business, residents, and farmers etc, in whatever way is possible; this may involve preparing leaflets, circulars, or posting notices in newsletters or having talks, do keep us informed of your activities under this heading.

Tidiness:

A number of derelict/ semi derelict / buildings under construction at the quay have been noted which gives this area an untidy unfinished appearance which is not aided by the condition of the road and car park; however with the redevelopment over the next year or two this area of Saint Mullins should be lifted visually speaking. It was surprising to see materials dumped to the side of the public toilet, particularly as the latter facility was in quite good condition and had been very well maintained. Weed spraying was in progress at the time of adjudication.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are being attractively presented and are being maintained in a neat manner; the area to the side of one property in the river park was storing quite an amount of rubbish; perhaps it was a clearout and it is just a temporary feature, hopefully so. Remind people constantly of the need to maintain their roadside boundary wall and areas outside of walls together with their curtilage areas in a tidy manner.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Old stone walls through out the village and on approach roads are one of its most characteristic and attractive features even if they are in a poor state of repair in places; it is good to note that the Heritage Services are prepared to help rebuild these; while awaiting refurbishment continue to reveal sections of wall by removing excess growth to highlight their beauty. Road surfaces tend to be poor and we wish you well in your representation to Carlow County Council in this respect, the car park already referred to was poorly surface, however the Memorial stone here and the picnic bench was appreciated by the adjudicator.

General Impression:

Saint Mullins is a beautiful village in magnificent setting with a rich cultural heritage and a village that has deep sense of its residents' pride for their home place, it is a good example for all communities; it is great to note that the possibility of reinstating the old Pilgrims Way is a strong possibility in the mid term future, well done to all who worked for this.