

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Spink** Ref: **419**  
County: **Laois** Mark: **206**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	22
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>206</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The small hamlet of Spink is one that has long approaches and areas to maintain. The Development Association deserve full marks for its achievements in this regard. The relationship you have with Laois County Council, Glanbia, the Spink Bar and the local community at large must be of great benefit to you in your work.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church and boundary wall, which was mentioned in last year's report and that of the previous year, had still not been painted. We read your comments in relation to this and hope that this dispute will soon be resolved. It looks quite charming with its well-maintained grounds. The school looked as well as ever. The pub - Headons looked very fresh and sported some attractive floral displays. Both the Community Hall and school were very fresh and neat.

### **Landscaping:**

The picnic area was very well maintained with relatively new hedging which will pay dividends in years to come. It also had high quality street furniture in respect of timber bin with incorporated floral display and the fine stone seating areas. The cheerful displays of marigolds at the entrances to Spink and at the Co-Op were most cheerful and welcoming. More flowers had been planted by the bridge and stream. The planting of trees at the sports field will pay dividends for future generations in years to come.

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

Spink is in a fortunate situation with its wealth of mature trees and hedgerows in its catchment area. The provision of bird and bat boxes is commendable. . Other centres have found it helpful to work in conjunction

with the local schoolchildren in regard to this category of the competition. There are a number of projects that can be worked upon such as creating a wildlife garden, the making of bird tables and birdboxes and bat boxes, a study and survey of the wildlife evident in the locality. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas in relation to this. It might be useful if a member of the committee works in conjunction with the local school teachers in this regard.

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition was very good on the day. The only outbreak along the long stretch of the main road was at its junction with the church road.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This category of the competition will become more and more important as the years go by. It is imperative that people become more and more aware of environmental issues and recycling and we look to you, the Tidy Towns Committees to promote them. Organising waste minimization and recycling seminars and composting workshops would be some ideas. Read your Tidy Towns Handbook and Race Against Waste brochure for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition. The recycling area was neatly presented.

#### **Tidiness:**

The town generally looked quite neat and tidy on the day. The Co-Op, which can be a problem area in some centres was well maintained and looked well on the day. There were some outbuildings on the Carlow side of the village, which should be repainted before next year's competition. Gravel and building materials near the picnic area looked unfortunate-these should be removed once construction work is complete.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Houses along approach roads were generally well maintained. An attractive cottage with well maintained garden was admired on the Abbeyleix side of the village. Another with attractive displays of petunias in tubs was noted near the pub, and another opposite.

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

The main road from Abbeyleix to Carlow is a very long one to maintain. We appreciate the sentiments expressed in your application regarding the approach roads. It is important to strike a balance in order to achieve a natural appearance to approach roads. They should not look wild and overgrown but they don't need to look manicured either. Have you considered the sowing of more wild flowers in order to brighten up these roads and give them a more colourful appearance? Poppies, foxgloves, wild roses and daisies would be very attractive and appropriate.

#### **General Impression:**

Spink is an attractive hamlet whose residents and Tidy Towns Committee show an obvious care in its presentation and future development. Congratulations on all the hard work achieved to date and good luck with your future work.