

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Collon** Ref: **490**
County: **Louth** Mark: **226**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Collon must be unique in managing its Tidy Towns entry without the assistance of other organisations, commercial sponsors and, more notably, schools. Clearly the Local Authority undertakes the duties appropriate to it such as road maintenance, lighting, waste disposal, etc, but it does seem that cooperation – particularly with school children and newly arrived residents – would not only help to create the community spirit which is a feature of Tidy Towns but would also gain for you additional marks.

The Built Environment:

The chief buildings of architectural interest were well maintained on the date of adjudication. Three of these are of unique interest – the charming Court House in its elegant square, the perpendicular-Gothic-style Church of Ireland church and the octagonal house. The latter is now presented to great advantage having suffered from unsightly accretions in recent times. The fine RC church was also admired, and the Garda Barracks was undergoing welcome repairs on the date of adjudication. Mattock Rangers new community centre is a big bold building of no architectural merit but undoubtedly serving its excellent purpose to the full.

Landscaping:

Pleasant incidences of small-scale planting, such as the shrubbery on the Ardee road, window boxes here and there, tubs and hanging baskets, add care and a sense of care to the village. The green at the Court House was trim on the date of the visit. The herbaceous bed in the fork of the Drogheda road is a welcome touch.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With such a wealth of meadow, woodland and stream in the neighbourhood, wild life projects should flourish.

In the absence of information on your entry form, the mark is being left at the same level as last year pending further intelligence.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on the initiative in forming a group to pick litter twice a week; their efforts have done well for the village. It would be good to hear of the involvement of schools in this matter.

Waste Minimisation:

You have left this section blank on the entry form. You should study the requirements in the Tidy Towns documentation supplied, for this matter will become more and more important in the future. The mark given is a nominal one in the first year of the new category; next year the mark will be increased (or decreased) according to the effort.

Tidiness:

Much work is needed at places on the lane leading down to Mattock Rangers where construction works have not been tidied up, there are neglected walls and entrances. The car park at the foot of the lane needed weeding at the time of adjudication, and also replacement of boundary fencing. This could be a very pleasant area. The garish rash of signage on some of the business premises gives a scruffy appearance to part of the principal shopping street. Some untidiness was seen in the lane by the Garda Station – there might be an opportunity for sensitive building development here. Attention to these points would result in a considerable rise in marks for Collon. Apart from the above-mentioned spots, the village has a tidy overall look.

Residential Areas:

It is the older houses in the two principal streets that give Collon its special charm. New cottages and small homes, on the streets and in adjacent courts and closes, are of suitable scale and materials and blend harmoniously with the existing building stock. The un-named hilltop housing estate was neat and trim on the date of the visit, with well mown grass and judiciously positioned tree planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Good road surfacing and paving was noted, and also well designed seating and street furniture.

General Impression:

Collon has so many natural advantages that it could, with not a great deal of increased care and attention, become the tidiest village in Louth. It would be well worth your while to consider the adverse points raised above and decide upon measures to be taken for improvements. The backing of the whole community would be essential. As it is, Collon does not meet its very high potential.