

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Threemilehouse** Ref: **553**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	34
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form showing developments over the past year. You mention that the competition 'should be twelve months, not just the summer'. It has been a precept of the Tidy Towns Competition since the beginning that all centres should be attractive at all times of the year - for example, committees are encouraged to plant bulbs for Spring flowering and evergreens to maintain foliage during the Winter and this is done in many centres: but were an adjudicator to arrive a day before the 1st of June there would be a universal outcry! - and some, unlike yourselves, even believe that June is too early! You are inviting a lower mark under Wild Life because of the advice given to you about dogs, but the mark will be left the same as last year and in the meantime you may be thinking of ways around this unique problem.

The Built Environment:

The best view of Threemilehouse is from the green near the post office where the hill may be seen rising up by way of well kept properties to the church on the top. This is as picturesque and well maintained a village centre as any. Improvements since this adjudicators previous visit were favourably noted at the shop and the post office. The church is beautifully kept as well as being a handsome building in itself. The school is a credit to its staff and pupils. Some repainting was seen to be needed on the signage over the pub on the side facing the car park.

Landscaping:

A poor impression is created coming from Monaghan where the improvements to Pairc Sean MacDiarmuida need to be deftly landscaped - probably you have this in mind for next year. The gravel banks should be covered with topsoil and planted with shrubs - in a comparatively short time this would result in a really superb lengthy run of landscaping - perhaps even the best in the county, for there is real potential. Trees should be planted extensively alongside the main road here. The greens and open spaces were well looked after as

usual. The best landscaping seen was in front of the shop and an adjacent private house on the left as you go towards Newbliss.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The streamside was attractive. The mature trees surrounding the village and the wild hedgerows must surely make for secure wildlife habitats. The dog difficulty is one that has not been encountered before.

Litter Control:

The control of litter was as good as last year, which was very good. Congratulations to the whole community for their participation in litter collection. (Of course it would be good to see the day when no litter collection was needed at all!)

Waste Minimisation:

This is an average mark in the first year of this new category - a category that will assume greater importance as time goes on. A bring bank was not seen (perhaps there is one but it must have been missed); if one does not exist, a start should be made by approaching the Council. Your notes on the entry form show an appreciation of this category.

Tidiness:

The general appearance is of a tidy village, but there is a site on the left of the road to Newbliss that militates against a rise in marks (and possibly should result in a decrease in marks), this is the scrap metal depot and the adjacent property where an abandoned car was seen. A high wooden fence would screen this from view, and, ideally, hedge-planting as well.

Residential Areas:

The sight of fine two-storied homes on the Newbliss side gave great pleasure - these contribute a real sense of character to the village. Other fine homes with well presented gardens were also seen. Cois Abhann was favourable noted. Do all the estates not have names? In the large estate on the same side as the pub some boundary fences needed repair or replacement and some boundary walls needed painting. This adjudicator particularly admired the small estate opposite Pairc MacDiarmuida.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces were mainly good, and very good on the Newbliss side with new kerbing. Road markings were clearly read. Signs were clean. Kerbs and paths had been kept in good order. Excellent fencing was seen on the Monghan and Newbliss roads. Lighting standards were of good design.

General Impression:

Two matters need attention which, if tackled successfully, would gain a considerable rise in marking: one is improvements to the landscaping of the Monaghan road at Pairc MacDiarmuida, the other is the screening (or removal to a more concealed site) of the scrap metal yard. Otherwise, this is a well kept village, clearly masterminded by a far-seeing committee with plenty of help from residents and also from the local authority and FAS.