

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **St Mullins** Ref: **1155**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to St Mullins to the Tidy towns competition 2007 with your comprehensive enclosures and reports which are currently being acted upon. The village is very beautiful with very important beautiful, national monuments located on this picturesque site. We are encouraged by the location of your S.M.A.R.T office immediately beside the monuments which indicate a 'hands on' approach. Well done on your initiative in finishing the heritage centre and the restoration and planting of the perimeter stone wall with the help of the Heritage Council. Also congratulations on your progress concerning your three year landscape and amenity plan, and the work being undertaken by your litter patrols has resulted in a virtual litter free village on the day of the inspection. Well done also on your work in the community including school children.

We note also that the Compulsory Purchase Order has been proceeded with to get the County Council's control over the beautiful blessed well. The river front buildings are currently dangerous and fenced with ugly metal sheet and the area has become an attraction for litter on the river front. We look forward to future sensitive planning in this area.

The Built Environment:

We note your report to the Heritage Services D.O.E .H.L.G., and are encouraged by their response concerning the roofing the old church to accommodate a Heritage Centre and the restoration of the boundary stone wall at the graveyard which have all been completed successfully. We await with interest the plans for the clearing up of the old ruined mill buildings located at the river front.

We share your concern for this very sensitive river front site which ideally should incorporate the existing buildings in the development and should provide at the same time good river front boating facilities. We are encouraged with your cooperation with the angling club to provide the jetties which we hope will be well used. Buildings including pubs and houses are of small scale single and two storey dwellings, traditional in nature

and fit in well with the surrounding existing trees.

Landscaping:

We note now that you are approximately half way through your existing three year programme based on the report. Of particular interest to us was the village green, the planted beds located on the roundabout and the area around the houses at the green. We noted also the composting area behind the motte.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We agree with the policy which is evident in the village that seeding should be allowed to take place before cutting. The hedgerows are full of plant and lower growth which encourages wildlife to prosper. Hedge cutting appears to have been done at a late season. It should be done outside the growing season. We are encouraged by your approach to river life and inspected the wild life reserve behind the motte which seemed satisfactory. Well done also on getting special status for Drummond Bog as a Natural Heritage Area.

Litter Control:

On the day of the inspection litter was virtually absent with the exception of the river side field around the ruined mill buildings. We notice your comment about day trippers and commend you on your efforts to tackle this problem by lobbying for special protection.

We notice that the recycling centre is in Glynn approximately 5km away.

Waste Minimisation:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary to encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this. Well done on your composting!

Tidiness:

Litter bins are in evidence throughout the village. Signs in general, mostly county council ones, are in need of reduction in numbers and general painting and maintenance.

Residential Areas:

Generally new houses seem to be modern individual bungalows and planting helps assimilate this development. The houses on the river front are a mix of single and two storey dwellings and are small in scale in keeping with other areas of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the day of inspection in June the back road between the village and the housing development on the river front way was almost impassable due to washed out fill. We welcome also the Sli na Slainte route through the trees. It was a great pleasure to visit the Blessed Well by the stone bridge with its clean rushing water. Two original gates were also noted.

General Impression:

St Mullins is a village in a natural treescape with many aspects including cultural heritage, beauty and tranquillity, while obviously remaining a vibrant community. We are sure that the challenges of the future such as the new river front and the related derelict area will be met by all parties to achieve a common and suitable solution just as has been achieved on the hill above in the church surroundings, yard and motte. We wish you well in the endeavour.