

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh** Ref: **1097**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **197**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>197</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Mullagh Tidy Towns Committee is welcome back to the competition after a year's absence. Many thanks for your comprehensive submission and clear maps, which were most useful on the day. Work with Mullagh Development Committee and Cavan County Council are to your advantage.

The work you do in relation to encouraging the completion of new estates and encouragement of tree planting are to your credit. Congratulations on winning the Tidiest Village in Cavan award last year, and good luck this year in retaining your title

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### The Built Environment:

The charming Church of Ireland and graveyard was admired on the Virginia Road, as was the well maintained Catholic Church. The St Killian Centre opposite was well presented. The National School was well maintained, but its gates will need painting before next year. Mullagh Stores was fine. Paddy Fox's is a charming shopfront. Mullagh Pharmacy was quite fresh, as was Michael Kerrigan's Restaurant and Off License. Fox's Bookmakers was well presented, as was the Garda Station and Sheridan's. The stepped gabled garage on the Kells Road was admired and should be repainted before next year. The wide Main Street has a great elegance to it and the fine wide proportions of facades and unusual archways make a good strong statement. Shopfronts were generally well presented. A marvellous traditional one beside the Auto Accessories shop is now a private residence and displayed attractive nasturtiums to its window displays.

### Landscaping:

The stone bed with a good mix of permanent planting and flowers was noted and admired on the Virginia Road. The stone wall, ditching and hedging was well maintained at the graveyard of the Catholic Church.

New trees planted close to the village were admired on this road also. The magnificent seating, paving and planting to the garden area on Main Street looked very well, as did the park area. The trees and hedging along the boundary will be marvellous when they mature. The tennis courts area to the front was well maintained. Lovely discreet hanging baskets and window boxes to buildings along the street make just the right impression - they don't overwhelm the facades!

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

The lovely lakeside area with lily pads forms an attractive entrance to the village on the Virginia Road. Foxgloves were also noted on this road. The Mullagh Hill walk is a lovely trail to follow and a great benefit to the people of the village, as you say, free of traffic hazards! Well done on its implementation. Foxgloves, blackberries, ferns and honeysuckle were noted in this location. Did you take on board the suggestion made by the adjudicator in 2005 regarding conducting a wildlife survey?

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was good, although there were problem areas. There was litter noted to the park area at the Fair Green, and the odd paper on the Virginia Road. There was no litter bin in the actual park area itself, only the garden at the roadside. Is this deliberate strategy or an oversight? The weekly clean ups are obviously paying off!

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bottle bank area showed a little evidence of dumping on the day. The active encouragement of its use is commendable. We were pleased to hear of its extension in regards to additional banks. How else are you promoting this category of the competition? Did the school retain its Green Flag this year? Do you compost your green waste from your landscaping projects? How do you promote waste management amongst the local community - school, households and businesses?

#### **Tidiness:**

A minor outbreak of weeds was evident at kerbsides on the Virginia Road. Outbuildings should not be neglected when considering overall presentation. A black tin shed on the Virginia Road should be re-painted before next year. There were also some sheds and outbuildings in the vicinity of the park which would benefit from a painting. A minor outbreak of graffiti was noted at the benches in this location.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There were a number of beautiful gardens to individual houses located on the Virginia Road. The adjudicator was amazed at the amount of new development that had taken place since last visiting Mullagh. It is very important that these estates do not detract from the character of the village. Therefore pressure must be kept on developers to ensure that the overall design of estates and the individual houses is of a high standard and that appropriate materials are used. The standard of landscaping and entrances is also important. Killian's Court with its pergola was admired. An attractive garden to a whitewashed cottage on the Kells Road looked marvellous, attractive montbretia was noted beside a boundary wall on this road. It will be magnificent when it comes into bloom. Indeed the existing housing stock is generally presented to a high standard.

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

The Virginia Road is an attractive entrance to the village as it passes by the beautiful lakeside area. The verges were well maintained with the grassy banks cut back. The dead grass should be removed after cutting. This road was a little rougher nearer to the village. Discourage fly posting and advertising hoardings as these can give roads a very cluttered appearance. Some lovely traditional metal farm gates were noted on the roads around the village.

#### **General Impression:**

Mullagh is an attractive working village which looked well cared for on the day. Do ensure that ongoing development does not swamp the village. Good luck with future works.