

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mansfieldstown** Ref: **1388**
County: **Louth** Mark: **207**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

This area was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Mansfieldstown is a charming rural hamlet. The road is flanked with notable old buildings, in particular a beautifully thatched cottage. The church ruin and graveyard is a hidden jewel and is lovingly maintained. The site itself is a national monument and rightly so. It is a fantastic oasis of history and reflection. The town is tiny, with no shop, school, or functioning church. The old well on the road south is a heritage feature and could be enhanced if painted and the surrounding growth removed.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is minimal but appropriate given the size of Mansfieldstown. Several well placed flower boxes provide just the right amount of colour. Mature trees along the river bank add greatly to the town character. There is a large, private estate on the south side of the river with concrete and iron railings, tightly mown grass and parkland trees. Its landscaping is quite alien in comparison to the heart of the village and could be softened with deciduous shrubbery/flowering native trees/or flower beds. The ancient graveyard has

impressive specimens of yew and holly. In such a rural setting, effective landscaping means good management of natural features such as trees and hedgerows. The latter should only be cut during winter months (October - February).

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river Glyde runs through Mansfieldstown and is a rich ecological asset for the town. However, it is rather hidden, so access to it would allow greater appreciation of it by locals and visitors. This could be enhanced by a wildlife information board and a bench to sit and watch the flowing water.

Litter Control:

There was virtually no litter seen on the day.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem and many useful tips are contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTowns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

The town seems very well kept and appears uncluttered. There is virtually no traffic through the town.

Residential Areas:

There are a handful of houses in Mansfieldstown but no real residential areas. The houses are all well presented with some colourful gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are no side streets off Mansfieldstown. The character of the town would be greatly enhanced by positioning some welcome signs on the approach roads. The bridge over the river looks like it was recently renovated, with a tasteful cobble-stone footpath. It is a very effective touch.

General Impression:

The general impression is of a beautiful, quaint, rural hamlet. I really enjoyed my visit and look forward to coming back again in future years.