

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullabohy** Ref: **1392**
County: **Louth** Mark: **190**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	190

Overall Development Approach:

Mullabohy 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:

Mullabohy is a settlement of houses located on either side of the main road, and as such may not as yet constitute a collective unit usually entered into the TidyTowns competition, although this is a largely a matter for the residents who may wish to use participation as a means of creating a better sense of unity in a developing area, an objective shared by TidyTowns and one it is committed to assisting. Other initiatives also exist, such as the Green Mile competition which also serve a very useful function in this regard and may have greater relevance in some cases.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is entirely rural in nature and this means hedgerows and trees. Hedgerows in particular perform a vital landscape function in giving texture and depth to the countryside. I am glad to report that most the hedgerows were still intact and looked very well on the day of adjudication.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As stated the road is fringed with hedgerows and these are vital wildlife corridors. When cutting back is required, this should only occur from September to February unless for health and safety reasons.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen on the day of adjudication. This was impressive as even small areas can suffer from litter being thrown by passing traffic. Without background information, it was not possible to ascertain the extent of community involvement and further marks could be gained here if litter patrols are in operation.

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 there are many useful tips 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 area is well presented with little to clutter its fine rural aspect.

Residential Areas:

The houses in this area are generally well kept and display a great sense of pride of place.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road through the area was generally in good condition. As Mullaghboy is not an obviously defined area, it has no welcome signs along the road to create a sense of place, nor did the adjudicator see specific measures to calm traffic as it passes the houses. Perhaps this is something that could form a joint project for residents. As stated above replanting the hedges would also improve the overall appearance.

General Impression:

While a lovely area, Mullaghboy may not as yet constitute a collective unit usually entered into the TidyTowns competition although the residents may wish to investigate this issue as participation can bring many benefits. In any event, may I wish all the residents of the area my very best wishes for the future.