

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Reaghstown** Ref: **498**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **263**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>263</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The consistently high standard set by Reaghstown each year in the tidy towns competition is a credit to the Committee and everyone else that is involved in this village. It is noted on the application form that there are only 5 members of the Committee and to continually achieve such a high standard with such a small number of members indicates a level of dedication and commitment that many other towns and villages could only dream of. It is noted that the Committee have worked with both Louth County Council and LEADER and it is recommended that these links are maintained and other relevant agencies (such as the Heritage Council etc) should be used where possible. As there is no school in the village, the Committee is encouraged to form links with local sports clubs and other voluntary organisations in order to enlist support. The quality of the three year plan is noted by the adjudicator and the Committee are to be commended both for setting priorities and on their diligence in undertaking the priority projects identified. In the view of the adjudicator, this approach is the most effective in bringing success in this competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church forms the most significant building in Reaghstown. Due to careful and frequent maintenance, its appearance is of a very high standard. Individual householders also deserve praise for the maintenance that they undertake to their properties, all of which make a significant positive contribution to Reaghstown.

### **Landscaping:**

The excellent work undertaken by the Committee on landscaping was particularly evident during adjudication. The planting at the entrance to the village from the N2 is spectacular and grabs the attention of all incoming vehicles. The wildlife garden / plateau is very impressive and the Committee are to be commended on their attention to detail. The natural stone planted banks are also very attractive adding a variety of summer colours. The planting on the verges leading into the village was also impressive and these were

complemented by the exceptionally high standards achieved in the front gardens of private properties, especially between the N2 entrance and the Church. Pleasant landscaping was also observed in the Church car park. The planting in front of the GAA grounds and around Danny Boys is also particularly impressive. The proposed projects of tree planting at the cemetery and additional planting in the Church car park are noted.

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

The Committee are to be congratulated on their idea (and work) in transforming the bridal path from an eye sore and litter black spot to a wildlife area that can be used by the whole community. The detail included in the action plan is very impressive and we look forward to its completion in year 2 and 3. Notwithstanding the objectives of the 'eco study', it is suggested that some of the schoolchildren of the village should be encouraged to conduct a survey which can be used to inform users of the path. It is also recommended that clear signposting is used to indicate the location of the walk. The picnic areas are also an excellent idea and it is considered that the picnic area at WP1 in particular provides an excellent amenity. The idea for an eco study is also very interesting and it is considered that this holistic approach is the most appropriate in this context. The adjudicator has no doubts that higher marks can be expected in this category when these projects are completed.

### **Litter Control:**

During the adjudication, it was clear that a high standard of litter control has been achieved in Reaghstown. There seems to be no doubt that this excellent performance reflects the work of the Committee in organising daily litter patrols, their involvement in the National Spring Clean and their vigilance shown in keeping Reaghstown litter free. This hard work is also reflected in the high mark achieved in this category.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is noted that various commendable actions have been undertaken under this category, such as segregating the litter collected and providing a composting area in the corner of the graveyard. However, more could be achieved and it is noted that the action plan does not cover this issue in detail. The Committee is encouraged to try and get all households in Reaghstown to minimise waste. This can be achieved by identifying a potential site for a bottle bank and clothes bank, running an awareness campaign of reducing, reusing and recycling at a local level and investigating the provision of composters to individual houses in the village. The use of compost from the composting area should also be used in ongoing landscaping projects. Actions like these will help the Committee to significantly improve your performance in this category in future years and it is recommended that they are considered for inclusion in the action plan.

### **Tidiness:**

A high standard of tidiness has been achieved in Reaghstown. This was made possible by effective projects that include painting boundary gates and paying close attention to the maintenance of roadside verges and planted beds, where few weeds are to be seen. The wooden 'Reaghstown' signs are also especially attractive. Some improvements are possible however. The surfacing in the Church car park was poor and this detracts from its appearance somewhat. There is a noticeable contrast provided by the lack of planting and weeds on one side of the car park and the rest of the village and it is suggested that this project is undertaken as a priority. It is also noted that landscaping and maintenance are being discussed for the grounds of Danny Boys. This will also improve the appearance of this part of the village.

### **Residential Areas:**

Individual properties achieve a high standard in Reaghstown with careful maintenance by the owners (painting, etc) and planting evident. The small residential scheme at Mountain View has also achieved a high standard, particularly with regard to landscaping and maintenance of their green area.

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

The approach roads to Reaghstown are among the best in the county. This has been achieved by careful attention to the verges, entrance stones and high quality signage. The surfacing of the road is also generally good, although this is not the case in the Church car park. In some instances, there is poor surfacing between the public road and the entrance to private properties. Generally speaking however, the standard is high.

### **General Impression:**

Reaghstown continues to impress with their consistently strong performances each year. The hard work undertaken is reflected in the marks obtained and provided the three year plan is followed, the adjudicator is confident that Reaghstown will continue to progress in this competition in future years.

