

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tallanstown** Ref: **852**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **295**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2007**  
**09/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	48
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>295</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

In the opinion of the adjudicator, Tallanstown provides an excellent model for how to succeed in the Tidy Towns Competition. Over the last number of years, it has produced consistently strong performances and this has been reflected in the marks obtained, which have undergone a significant increase. This improvement is the result of a hard working and well organised Committee. With 17 members, this reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of Tallanstown to this competition. The Committee are also to be commended on the level of participation that they have fostered with other voluntary groups, sports clubs and residents associations in the village – who are a valuable resource and the partnerships that they have formed with Louth County Council, Fas, Louth LEADER and various sponsors. The partnership with the school (through the Chairman) is also to be commended as this not only ensures that additional resources can be used for the different projects but an awareness of the Tidy Towns competition is fostered among young people. The Action Plan that has been produced is also of a very high standard and full credit must go to the Committee for both identifying projects that are appropriate and achievable in their village, including them in their plan and then diligently implementing them. In the view of the adjudicator, one of the most impressive features of the Committee is their eagerness to devise innovative projects for the Tidy Towns categories and this gives added interest to the competition. The adjudicator would also like to thank the Committee for submitting such a well prepared entry form and supporting documentation comprising the action plan and the detailed submission.

### **The Built Environment:**

One of the first features observed by the adjudicator was the water feature. Congratulations to all concerned as it is a lovely piece of work that provides a focal point to the village at the cross roads. The main buildings in Tallanstown of the school and Church are very well maintained as ever and they make a very positive contribution to the streetscape. The Old School House is a particularly impressive building which provides good character and distinctiveness to the village. It was also observed that the vast majority of houses in the

village are maintained to an exceptionally high standard and this illustrates the high level of participation and the commitment of Tallanstown to achieving success in this competition. The GAA Club House is also very well presented.

### **Landscaping:**

The Committee have excelled in the landscaping projects undertaken for this years competition. A large number of very high quality planting schemes were observed on the day of adjudication. The planting at the village green was particularly impressive as it provided lovely summer colours to the streetscape. Carefully maintained and attractive planting was also observed on each of the approach roads which complemented the impressive wooden welcome signs on each approach road. The consistency in planting schemes and the quality of the cut stone finishes of the beds was also noted and admired. The planting (and amenity potential) of the picnic area was also observed. The variety of planting and colours in Maguire Park also caught the attention of the adjudicator and gave a positive impression.

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

Maguire Park exemplifies the approach of the Tidy Towns Committee in Tallanstown. Although, Tallanstown would have much fewer options for wildlife and natural amenities than many other villages and towns in County Louth (particularly on the coast), their response to this category was the creation of Maguire Park and the result is now a successful wildlife and amenity area with a wide range of maturing trees and plants as well as bird and bat roosts to encourage biodiversity. Wildlife interpretative panels were also observed. These are an excellent addition as they can be used by all who visit the park and help to raise awareness of the natural environment. The proposal to create a river walk is noted with interest and an update on the progress of this project would be welcome in 2008.

### **Litter Control:**

A very high standard of litter control in Tallanstown as no litter was evident on adjudication day. This litter free environment is a reflection of the hard work of the Committee who carry out and organise daily litter pick ups and take part in the National Spring Clean Initiative. Well done to all involved and this strong performance

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an area that is becoming increasingly important in the tidy towns competition. The proposal to provide a state of the art underground facility was read with interest and we look forward to seeing this project in 2008. The Committee is also to be commended on the other actions undertaken which included the production and distribution of a waste minimisation leaflet, the purchase of a new mulcher and having a community composting workshop followed by the distribution of 55 composters. These actions are very effective in raising awareness at a local level and for encouraging people to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.

### **Tidiness:**

The standard of tidiness achieved in Tallanstown was very high. No clutter was observed and all footpaths, roadside verges and planting beds were free of weeds and maintained to a high standard. The new signposting provided was considered to be well designed and appropriate to its context. The projects proposed under this category (such as painting the treatment plant gates) are also noted. Once again, this level of tidiness is a reflection of the hard work of the Committee who are to be commended.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas in Tallanstown adhere to very high standards and are a credit to their owners and the village. In the opinion of the adjudicator, the planting observed and quality of maintenance at No. 1-6 The Glyde is among the best seen anywhere in the County. Similar high standards of planting and maintenance were observed in both Castle View and Chestnut Grove. The new developments under construction were also noted. It is suggested that the Committee be vigilant and ensure that planning applications for new development must be have appropriate design, finishes and boundary treatment in order to harmonise with the rest of the village.

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

The approaches to Tallanstown are very good. Surfacing is of a high quality and the wooden welcome signs are both attractive and original. All road verges observed are very well maintained with no evidence of weed growth or untidiness.

### **General Impression:**

In the view of the adjudicator, this has been an exceptional performance by Tallanstown and their Committee in which they have managed to improve on their marks in virtually all categories. This has been achieved by hard work, excellent organisation and a high level of participation and commitment. The adjudicator wishes you well in the competition.

**Second Round Adjudication:**

Work continues on the old Cemetery. The Don't litter sign here needs to be washed. Good mature trees on the approach roads, while built into the walls are small and attractive flowerbeds. The name plate and presentation of Cherry wood Park was a joy while the fox and wall top located, small frog were whimsical additions. Sadly an amount of litter in a number of locations especially opposite Glyde Rangers GFC well presented grounds. The new fountain and area were exceptional. The treatment of the pump, signs and flower beds here was colourful. Unfortunately many of the signs needed to be washed. Chesnutt grove was very well maintained with many hanging baskets. Road surface in this location was a little below par. The Green Status Flag at the school was flying proudly while the restored Old School was exceptionally well presented. However a few iron railing capitals need replacing. The bridge and new cycle path was a delight.