

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tullyallen** Ref: **500**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **232**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>232</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome back to the Tidy Towns competition and it is heartening to see such a positive return for Tullyallen. It is noted from your entry form that there are 4 members on your committee. The amount of work completed in Tullyallen this year is a very positive reflection on the level of enthusiasm and commitment of the Committee. Perhaps some additional members should be recruited. It is hoped that as the village expands (as illustrated by the current level of housing construction) and new residents move into these new housing developments, new members can be attracted. It was also observed that the Committee are well organised and that good relationships have formed with Louth County Council, Louth Leader and local businesses. Although there is no mention of Fas or community employment schemes, it is assumed that they can provide additional support as they are mentioned in your action area plan. It was noted that no reference has been made to forming partnerships with other voluntary groups in Tullyallen such as Residents Groups, Development Associations or even sports and retirement groups. It is recommended that these options should be explored, not only to increase the resources available to the tidy towns Committee, but also to raise awareness of the tidy towns competition. The Committee is also to be commended on the quality of the submission made and for the high quality action plan completed.

### **The Built Environment:**

The built environment of Tullyallen is comprised of a small number of period buildings clustered around the centre of the village and a mix of established and modern housing developments that can be found on the edges of the central area. The charming Morning Star Pub with its thatched roof forms the central focus of the village and this is complemented by the period structures of the Parochial House and the School building. Immediately opposite the pub is the central square, which is an attractive feature of Tullyallen. The Church, Cemetery and Community Hall are located nearby. The Church is a particularly attractive building that is maintained to a high standard, while the car park has been recently resurfaced. The cemetery is also carefully

maintained and it is a credit to all involved in its maintenance. The outlying parts of Tullyallen are comprised of a number of modern housing schemes, the majority of which appear to have developed in the last 5 – 10 years. Unfortunately, the garage and the area outside it were a little unsightly.

### **Landscaping:**

The hard work of the Committee was reflected in the landscaping projects that were observed on the day of adjudication. There was some attractive planting to be found at the central square in a number of hanging baskets and varied planters including a wooden wheelbarrow. This planting added lovely colour and interest to the centre of the village. The adjudicator was also impressed with the planters on view immediately outside the Church and cemetery which were of a high quality. However, it is considered that this planting also served to illustrate that the Church car parking area, which was a large extensive area would also benefit from well positioned planters to alleviate its bare appearance. Attractive planting was also noticed outside the Parochial House and stream while the planting and trees outside the school buildings (especially the evergreens) are particularly effective. The planting outside the pub is also to be commended.

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

This area represents an excellent opportunity for Tullyallen to improve its performance in the tidy towns. The stream was noted in the village centre and the Committee are to be commended on how clean it appeared to be. The reference is noted to the historic King William site. However, this was not marked into the map in the action plan and no directional signs could be found indicating where it was located. However, this category has been marked on the basis that the facility is there, but the Committee is requested to ensure that this facility can be identified or there is a risk that it could be overlooked by the adjudicator and no marks will be given. The reference to the creation of nature walk on the grounds of Townley Hall was also observed. Once again, it is recommended that sign posts are provided and that this facility is included on the map in the action plan.

### **Litter Control:**

There is generally a high standard of litter control in Tullyallen as only small amounts of litter were to be found on adjudication day. This is a reflection of the hard work of the Committee who carry out daily litter pick ups and take part in the National Spring Clean Initiative. Well done to all involved. However, some improvements are possible as small amounts of litter were observed in the car park of the Mace shop and also in the village square.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an area that is becoming increasingly important in the tidy towns competition. It is encouraging to read that discussions are taking place to provide a bring bank in the car park of the Mace Shop. This is a particularly important action as the availability of convenient recycling facilities is a key component of a waste minimisation strategy. The other actions undertaken by the Committee such as segregating the waste collected at the national spring clean initiative are to be commended. However, it is suggested that other actions should be explored. They could include running an awareness campaign on waste reduction and recycling (which you have proposed) and starting a composting area to generate compost that could be used in the landscaping projects. The Committee is also encouraged to investigate obtaining a mulching machine for their own use in their ongoing landscaping projects. These actions could lead to an increase in marks obtained under this category.

### **Tidiness:**

In the opinion of the adjudicator, the standard of tidiness achieved in Tullyallen was generally quite good and this is a notable achievement given the level of construction that is currently taking place. This is also a reflection of the hard work of the Committee. However, some improvements could still be made. The bins, bench, pump and wheelbarrow planter in the village square could benefit from a coat of paint. There was an overgrown and weedy planting bed at the junction of Townley Manor and poorly maintained planting beds in the car park of the Mace Shop in the car park which had an untidy appearance, graffiti was observed in the lane to the rear of cnoc na greine and there was a lack of signposts to be found in the village.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residential areas in Tullyallen were generally of a high standard. Some areas such as Ard Alainn, achieved an exceptionally high standard with respect to planting and maintenance of its green areas. Raith Wood and Lavin Park also achieved a good standard of planting and maintenance on the day of adjudication. More Court was of a reasonable standard, but the presence of weeds in the edges stones gave it an untidy appearance. The Glen was also reasonably attractive while Cnoc na Greine required some improvement.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approaches to Tullyallen are generally good, with high quality surfacing and clear, well maintained signage. The proposal to provide welcome signs should result in an additional improvement. The road verges were also generally well maintained. However, the surfacing outside the garage was poor, while the road entrances to a small number of the residential areas appeared rough.

**General Impression:**

It is great to see Tullyallen back in the tidy towns competition and after such an encouraging return, the adjudicator is confident that it will make further progress in 2008.