

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Mullaghmore** Ref: **315**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **220**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2007**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 34                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 31                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 35                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 22                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 23                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 8                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 14                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 18                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 28                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 7                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>220</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Mullaghmore Active is welcome to the 2007 competition! The adjudicator was pleased to see that, in the number of years since last visiting Mullaghmore, the village has retained its charm and integrity. Have you formulated a Work Programme? This document need only be a few pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village and setting a time-frame for their achievement. You could use the comments made in this report and those of previous years as a starting point. It was disappointing to note that you had left several sections of your application form blank, such as waste minimization and roads streets and back areas. Your map was most useful on the day. Have you considered creating a Nature/History Trail?

### **The Built Environment:**

The two hotels-the Pier Head and the Beach Hotel in red looked very well and form a good focal point for the village. The Shop was also admired, as was Eithna's Restaurant and the Star of the Sea Retreat and Conference Centre. Lomax Boats made a good impression, especially given it is a busy working business. Stone walling to the roadsides form an attractive picture for the visitor. The fine Pier walls looked to be well maintained and dramatic.

### **Landscaping:**

The grassy areas along the seafront were generally well cared for, with attractive seating facing out to the harbour and magnificent views. The two picnic areas-beyond the top of the pier and along the high cliff road looked very well, with their stone walling, bright red geraniums and cape daisies! The landscaping at the telephone boxes was admired. The village pump was simply presented on the road beside the Beach Hotel.

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

The wildlife area in the small woodlands at the entrance to the village is an attractive space. From last year's report, it would seem that a number of useful suggestions were made in the adjudicator's report of the previous year regarding this category of the competition. Have you followed up on any of them?

#### **Litter Control:**

The standard on the day was good. However, do bear in mind that even one or two items of litter are going to be more all the apparent in a village of Mullaghmore's size. The daily beach clean up in the summers month's is a good idea. A single plastic pot was noted on the approach road.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Have you a recycling area? None was found by the adjudicator on the day. It would be something that was well worthwhile given the number of visitors to the village. It was noted that the beach was proudly flying its Blue Flag, which was very heartening to see! There was mention in last year's report that you compost green waste. Unfortunately you had left this section of the entry form blank this year, so it was difficult to know what you have done in relation to it! This category is also about how you manage your own recycling-do you segregate litter from your pick-ups? It also relates to how you communicate this issue to local businesses and households. It would be worthwhile talking to the Environmental Officer in Sligo County Council in order to get some guidance on this.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance. However, weed control was a problem at the boundary walls and kerbs along side roads, as appeared to be the case last year. A few verges along approaches were also quite rough and overgrown. The area at the top of the pier looks quite untidy and it is wondered whether this could be screened more successfully from public view?

#### **Residential Areas:**

Houses and gardens were somewhat inconsistent in their appearance on the day. Many of the holiday homes, as mentioned last year, appeared quite neglected –both houses and their gardens and grass verges to the front. The stone and plaster rendered houses at the roadside at Arbour Hill were greatly admired. The Old National School looked very well in its restored state and a house with display of nasturtiums to the front was admired. The charming dramatic Neo-Gothic Gate Lodges make a strong impact at roadsides. The stone cottages that form the Old Post Office looked marvellous!

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

As last year, the verges on the main approach road were very good but the side roads could have been improved upon on the day, as they were very overgrown. The fuchsia bushes and attractive planting at the main junction on the approach to the village were greatly admired! In terms of street furniture, the lamp-standards were a little patchy and needed repainting and the telephone boxes were in bad order.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Mullaghmore after a number of year's absence. The magnificent backdrop of the Donegal Hills and the marvellous harbour, cliffs and beach area make it a spectacular and popular spot! It has great potential, with a fixed strategy, to do well in the competition.