

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullaghroe** Ref: **1410**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **166**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	22
Landscaping	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	400	166

Overall Development Approach:

Mullaghroe is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Your village lacks a strong identity in the eyes of the traveling public as there are no village name plates and no indication of the existence of a village here. At the time of adjudication village enhancement work was being undertaken by Sligo County Council which will no doubt raise the status of Mullaghroe for the traveling public and of course provide much needed services for residents. We note your proximity to Lough Gara and encourage you to explore the possibility of developing an amenity walk to the lake. Your next task will be to form a committee and to prepare a planned work programme covering a period of at least three years. You might incorporate some of the observations of this report into the plan. You should submit this each year with your application accompanied by a rural place map identifying your activities in any given year.

The Built Environment:

The school looks quite well together with its grounds however the wire mesh on top of the wall might be replaced with railings or another alternative as the wire mesh is unattractive. The stone buildings on the Culfadda junction look a little run down and their curtilage areas are quite poor, however they do have a certain amount of character and hopefully their traditional features will be retained upon redevelopment.

Landscaping:

The two corner sites located at the road junction should be landscaped when road works are finished to feature public art or water feature or specimen tree or other landscaping. Don't forget that landscaping can be hard surfaced also and some seating might be provided. The roadside verges to the Culfadda junction were left in their natural state at the time of adjudication, when name plates are provided all verges within the limits set by these should be kept closely trimmed during the growing season with straightened roadside edges.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The stream located on the northern entrance to Mullaghroe could be highlighted more together with the small stone bridge here which is an attractive feature. Perhaps a habitat survey of the stream might be undertaken and promoted using interpretative panels. The elevated site beside the school with the handsome stand of mature trees also has wildlife value, perhaps it could be surveyed for woodland habitats, and the local schoolchildren might be involved in this initiative.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Mullaghroe; none was noted on the day of adjudication. If you engage in litter control activities such as regular litter patrols or participation in the National Spring Clean please submit this information in future years as it can be a source of additional marks. All litter collected should be segregated for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

You have only gained nominal marks under this heading as you do not appear to have a recycling point such as bottle banks or clothes banks or any other waste minimization initiative. Perhaps you could orchestrate a community composting initiative which will reduce the waste output substantially of the community. You might also consider a waste audit to determine how much waste is produced in Mullaghroe and to look for ways of reducing it further.

Tidiness:

A certain amount of work related untidiness was noted at the time of adjudication given the substantial roadworks ongoing. Do try to maintain the base of walls free of weed growth, some was noted at the base of the school wall. The vacant house at the top of the Culfadda Road should not be allowed to fall into disrepair and its surrounds should be kept as tidy as possible as an interim measure pending redevelopment.

Residential Areas:

The boundary treatment of dwellings located between the school and the Culfadda junction is in need of improvement in many instances. Encourage householders to take responsibility not only for their own gardens and curtilage areas but also for their boundary walls and areas outside of boundary walls, this is important in terms of the Tidy Towns initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As noted previously Mullaghroe does not have name plates and so does not have a strong identity in the eyes of the traveling public. These should be installed as soon as possible and certainly when roadworks through the village have ceased. The stone wall located between the school and towards the Boyle junction should be revealed and highlighted as it is beautiful. Stone walls dividing fields are an attractive feature of the views from Mullaghroe to the surrounding countryside.

General Impression:

Mullaghroe is definitely a work in progress and we expect you to make further advances in the competition upon the cessation of roadworks.