

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Solohead** Ref: **1225**  
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **215**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>215</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. It is good to hear that Solohead has decided to enter this competition. The interest from the community is encouraging as gauged by the number on your committee. Solohead is a quiet rural village in a mature woodland setting surrounded by magnificent countryside. Given the degree of enthusiasm outlined in your submission, the committee has the potential to achieve a very high standard. However, we note a great absence of a work programme in this year's application form. This is understandable considering it is your first entry to the Tidy Towns. We would encourage you to provide details of annual works accomplished in future submissions, together with a planned future (three year) work programme to enable you to make further progress in the competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church and adjoining burial ground is the focal point of this attractive village and both are presented to a very high standard. The Grotto and its presentation looked well. The Hideout Pub opposite encloses the village square on one side and is also presented to a high standard. The painting, lettering, mural and lighting on this building were particularly admired. The nicely painted, traditional roadside residence adjacent to the Church also ensures that the village retains its vernacular character.

### **Landscaping:**

We note the committee's plans regarding new tree planting and the spaces within the village have enormous potential for this. For instance, tree planting behind the attractive monument would create a soft backdrop and enhance the setting. Adjacent to the pub is a well maintained raised seating area, adorned with colourful flower displays, which was neat and tidy on the day of adjudication.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

We note your lack of comment under the Wildlife heading and would encourage you to undertake a wildlife survey of the village and its environs with a view to publishing the results on an information panel to heighten awareness.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control was generally good on the day of adjudication, however small amounts of litter, including a number of plastic bottles, were observed in the car park opposite the Church and extending beyond the pub. Well done to the committee for initiating litter cleanup days. We would encourage you to engage with Tipperary South Riding County Council in order to develop a co-ordinated programme.

**Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to note from your application that you have commenced segregating litter on your cleanup days. Your proposal to engage with local residents and businesses is acknowledged. To proceed further in marks under this heading, a good start would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced by themselves and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet, included in the Tidy Towns pack, contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this booklet will be adopted in the future.

**Tidiness:**

The overall appearance of the village was one of tidiness. The war memorial and adjoining footpaths were in need of weed control and some general freshening up.

**Residential Areas:**

Solohead is one of the few rural villages where a housing estate has not been developed. Private houses in general were well presented, some to a very high standard and a number of nearby farmsteads looked well.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Generally road surfaces and footpaths were well presented and the roads were clearly lined. The Monard approach road looked particularly well and the three strands of maturing trees were noted. The approach road from Pope's Bridge also looked well but the area close by the railway crossing was in need of weed control. Overall the approach roads have an abundance of mature native, deciduous trees set on attractive hedgerows. The stone wall of the Church is a feature of the village core and the cut-stone entrance piers and decorative iron gates are one of the highlights of the village

**General Impression:**

Solohead is a charming village in a wonderful location and the commitment of the newly formed Tidy Towns committee will prove a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.