

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh** Ref: **1097**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **199**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	199

Overall Development Approach:

Mullagh is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission, we note the absence of a plan and urge you to submit one or a plan summary each year of entry. Your links with all sectors of the community is noted, a lot is being achieved by a relatively small number of people. Mullagh appears to be 'swamped' by new residential developments and the village could rightly be described as a work-in-progress. Hopefully new residents will mean new hands for the TidyTowns work with a strong commitment to the overall development of the village.

The Built Environment:

Congratulations on plans to enhance the two vacant premises located the Main Street. Commercial premises at the top of the Bailieborough road are problematic, (these appear to be Mullagh Stores and Creamery); in fact both ends of the main street are spoiled visually by commercial properties in need of cleaning/painting/screening. The majority of premises along the Main Street enjoy a good presentation however there are a few dated beer signs and a dated 7UP sign. Have a word with business people regarding window posters and stickers, these can spoil an otherwise good presentation. Mullagh is an attractive village with a wide main street graced by handsome well maintained two and three-storey buildings.

Landscaping:

Young trees lining the main street are maturing well and container flower displays are attractive. The People's Park development is a fine amenity, perhaps a fingerpost sign on the main street would be appropriate. Well done on the acquisition of jumbo flower pots these can create a strong visual impact. Plant native species as these are supportive of wild life.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wild grasses along the verges of approach roads are a pleasing introduction to the village and the hedgerow along the Lake Road provides important wildlife habitats. The lake is a wonderful natural amenity and the picnic area and walk here are invaluable. Congratulations on the development of a Golden Mile around Mullagh Lake. Well done to the school on the achievement of two Green Flags in the Green Schools Programme

Litter Control:

A very light scattering of litter which consisted mostly of cigarette ends and sweet wrappers were noted along the main street however it could not be described as a serious problem but should be tackled before it becomes so. We note your weekly litter picking activities well done and also your plan to involve the schools. It is suggested that you undertake a litter survey to identify the type and source of litter, this will enable you to devise appropriate strategies to manage it better. Don't forget to segregate collected litter for recycling

Waste Minimisation:

Fingerpost signage is suggested for the Bring Bank and although the site was tidy it could be made more attractive. We note your involvement with business interests and your work to achieve a shopfront display on the theme of Waste Minimisation, we wish you success in this. Ultimately a waste audit should be taken to establish the amount of waste generated by the community with a view to minimising it in addition to recycling.

Tidiness:

Untidy curtilage areas to commercial prep premises are problematic and reference has already been made to this. Overhead service cables cause visual clutter and hopefully these will be deducted. Your regular weed spraying together with the maintenance of the road to the lake is acknowledged as are your plans for weekly clean-ups from the village centre to the Church and Heritage Centre.

Residential Areas:

Mullagh has a fine stock of dwellings ranging in style and age from individual bungalows on their own sites to town houses to semi-detached and detached houses in residential estates and apartments. The challenge now for the committee is to welcome new residents to the life of the community and to the TidyTowns movement. It might be a good idea to organise a 'Best Kept Estate Competition and perhaps a garden competition to promote the TidyTowns Competition to new residents. Keep sending out the TidyTowns message regarding the maintenance of gardens boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls in addition to taking over and maintaining community green areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads into Mullagh are attractive and enjoy good maintenance, nameplates are clean and legible. Your 'Adopt a Road' programme is an excellent initiative. Road surfaces in general are a good. Hopefully the committee will be successful in the creation of a footpath from the church to the lake front. Street furniture is generally well presented.

General Impression:

The difficulties caused by the through traffic are appreciated and range from litter being discarded from cars to dirt on buildings not to mention safety; hopefully your efforts to have traffic calming measures installed will have the desired result. Mullagh is an attractive village with a strong heritage and the task for the years ahead is to maintain your cultural heritage whilst at the same time embracing growth and development.