

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullagh** Ref: **82**
County: **Clare** Mark: **223**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	44
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	223

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Mullagh Development for your entry on behalf of Mullagh village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to your Committee of four people who take the time and effort to attend your meetings, in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee and partnership organisations are doing worthwhile work for Mullagh, a village with a population of less than 200 people. Well done to all concerned.

Thank you for the detailed submission including the many photographs of Mullagh and the various TidyTowns activities. Thanks also for the sketch map of the village.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment. A recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a very short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. This plan would help you focus on agreed targets and need only be set out in short bullet points and would not exceed a page or two. A further recommendation is to attempt to increase the number of people willing to serve on TidyTowns Committee. Your present Committee of four would benefit by the introduction of new members to help spread the workload and take on additional duties.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Enjoy the Mullagh Cattle Show in August. Keep up the good work.

The Built Environment:

Mullagh is the centre of the parish of Kilmurry Ibrickane and is located in the heart of some lovely West Clare countryside. Your ongoing attempts, with other organisations, to improve the quality of life of the people of

Mullagh is to be applauded.

The sewerage scheme that has been approved will bring economic benefits to the village and will improve the infrastructure of Mullagh. Well done on this approval. Presently the road surface within the village is of very poor condition and in some cases could be considered unsafe. As stated, the roads upgrading will follow the new sewerage scheme.

Due to ongoing change there is a wide variety in the quality of the build environment in the village. Those public buildings that impressed included: The Church, in particular the interior and the stained glass window are quite beautiful; the National School is an excellent facility for the people of the area, congratulations on the wonderful extension and renovations officially opened on 23rd June this year. For Mullagh to continue with its national school going back to 1894 is an achievement that the people of the parish can be really proud. The School looked magnificent with the colourful flowers and bunting rightly celebrating the official opening. This work deserves to be reflected in appropriate marks. The Health Centre also looked well.

Other commercial buildings that looked well included; the Credit Union; the Forge; Haircut 100; Sextons; Meaney's; Moroney's Bar; Whelans.

The existence of the multipurpose sportsfield at the centre of Mullagh is to be applauded and those that help maintain it are doing great community work. Its great to see the running track as part of the complex. There is a proud tradition of running in Kilmurry Ibrickane. The building in the complex would benefit with a fresh painting. There are really lovely and well-maintained residences on the outskirts of the village in addition to some fine townhouses. The grassed area near the Housing Estate, which looked well, is a worthwhile feature. The village pumps looked well but there is room for improvement with one of the seats in a broken condition.

The stone signs of Failte go Mullach and Slan go Foill are excellent.

Landscaping:

The high standard of landscaping in the private residences is impressive. The nice flowers and planted containers at the national school is an excellent feature. There are some nice grassed landscaped areas in the Housing Estate. The village entrances with the stone Failte and Slan signs are also well landscaped. The two Pumps are nice features even if one had a broken seat.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that gel to make Mullagh look well. The residential areas also put so much effort into their own gardens and the result is mainly impressive and of benefit.

Well done to the gentleman working outside of the Little Moon Garden Centre who, on the day of my visit, was busy planting and weeding.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Mullagh situated in the heart of West Clare offers excellent opportunities to highlight the native and indigenous wildlife and birdlife. The setting up in the village of some good Interpretative Panels on birds and wildlife would help in this category.

Consider contact with the Heritage Council on these projects.

Litter Control:

The Cleanup Day carried out by the residents, the Brownies and Guides is a fantastic initiative. Well done to all those young enthusiastic people who took the time and gave of their energies to help tidy up the village. Mullagh in general looked mainly litter free on the day of my visit except for some small amount of sweet papers on the ground close by the Church.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

Well done on the clean up day which involved the Brownies and the Guides. Your submission included some photographs, which showed great enthusiasm and energy.

The Green Flag Schools Programme is a super programme to be considered.

Tidiness:

In general Mullagh looked tidy on the day of my visit. There are of course always pockets of untidiness that could be better. These included the Sportsfield Car Park, some grassed area needed to be cut.

Residential Areas:

The older townhouses help retain the village character and charm of Mullagh and some of these are maintained to the best possible standards. The Finnuremore Park residential estate look well but some kerbside grass needed removal.

Some individual houses on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some lovely gardens. Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Well done to all residents for the great effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads and the roads in the village, as stated above, should be given priority as part of, or following, the Sewerage Scheme project.

The town was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping which could be improved by planted hanging baskets. The village stonesigns are a nice feature.

General Impression:

Congratulations to Mullagh on your entry again to TidyTowns and well done on the progress made on your projects during 2008. Keep up this excellent work and engage as many as possible new members to your Committee.

I look forward to further visits to Mullagh.