

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Batterstown** Ref: **574**
County: **Meath** Mark: **261**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Batterstown VEA for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for your informative Entry Form and for the village map which was most helpful. The highlighting on the map was a great help in steering the adjudicator in the correct directions. You included your meticulously prepared five year plan of action and even highlighted for the benefit of the adjudicator the works completed. Of great interest is that you intend this plan to be under constant review and liable to being amended. Wonderful. You are engaging with the forces that are shaping Batterstown for the present and coming generation to ensure that works carried out are in accordance with good practice. There is a suggestion in the letter from the Meath County Council that your committee has them pestered. Well your contact is paying off. You are also meeting with different parties in the village to ensure that they maintain their premises to an appropriate standard. In other words there is a major heave by your group to improve both the appearance of Batterstown and also the quality of life there. Your interaction with the school is multi pronged and meaningful. The safety of the children is uppermost in your priorities. Glad to see that the promotion of Green Flag Status is also mentioned. Your is a dynamic committee and all one can do is wish you *Ádh Mór* in your work.

One presumes that Batterstown VEA is the Batterstown Village Enhancement Association, an interesting title because it represents a portfolio of activity beyond the tighter parameters of TidyTowns but one that also prioritises the improvement in the quality of life of village dwellers.

The Built Environment:

There has been so much work done in Batterstown to enthuse over. And it is not the major buildings. Respect is demonstrated to your GAA heritage by the memorial to your famous Meath players down the years. The village pump is given the respect such a noble service deserves after all the years of producing clean, uncontaminated water. A lovely touch. An element in the history of Batterstown is retold in the

sculptures. A wonderful idea. One looks forward to the Hereford bull. The shopping centre area is a busy commercial entity in the village. At present there is further development. The design of the buildings is most pleasing and has a nice blend of traditional use of stone with modern design. When finished this area should add much to the built environment of Batterstown. The fine period residence at the end of the street gives a sense of the classed society of times past and looks very well. Caffrey's Bar and Lounge are the built highlight of the village at present. Sensitive work has been done here. There seems to be a fluent continuity between 1798 and 2008 in the preservation of the old building and its unity with the more modern bar through use of colour and through the use of those lanterns..

The GAA occupies a major area in the village vista. Last year's adjudicator mentioned the boundary wall. It is still in need of a power wash. The same is true of the school wall but the actual building is well presented.

Landscaping:

Much emphasis is put on enhancing surroundings by judicious landscaping all over town and for some distance outside also.

The landscaping and tree planting at Baile an Bhóthair is most impressive.

Landscaping in conjunction with the residential areas is most impressive and does much to enhance the buildings. Use of logs and roots, which also vary the landscaping and are a pleasant surprise, promote wildlife. A beneficial by product of some person's unique attitude to landscaping! Every effort is made to bring summer to town with the flower barrels. Hedges are a feature of the village landscape and one notes your plan to create a unified aspect for the village through the planting of beech hedges. Superb.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

One is immediately impressed by the publication of 'Cycling and Walking from Batterstown'. An ambitious project. In conjunction with this publication one would wish to find information display boards on the routes giving all the data, with photos, of the birds and flora of the area. Or maybe this information is included in the book and ye have stolen a march on the adjudicator. The many hedges about the village are wildlife habitats and sanctuaries. The trees attract different species so Batterstown must be a chorus of music at dawn.

Litter Control:

Well done on your participation in the Meath County Council anti litter campaign.

People cannot complain that they do not have bins to hand. They are in plentiful supply. You identify a likely source of litter in your submission. If passing traffic is a source there is need for striking, attractive signage making people more litter aware. The village is largely free of litter.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the school for achieving Green Flag Status. The ideas the pupils encounter and the skills they develop in working towards the Green Flag will be brought home to the generations at home and will help in developing composting, reusing, recycling and reducing mentalities. Some members of your group might study the recommendations in the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate waste minimisation projects in the home and in business..

Tidiness:

Of course one agrees with the sentiments but the 'no pylons' signs create a sense of unease. What group of people are these signs targeting? Surely not the locals who must be au fait with the situation. The passer by is not being asked to sign a petition. Make sure that signs in the village look maintained. Some are in need of a rub of a cloth. Generally road margins look well. Construction work, by its very nature, creates an untidy aspect in the short term.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of Batterstown seem to be giving your Association their full support. Individual houses exude pride in their dwellings. Hedges, gardens, open spaces are impeccable. The hanging baskets in Church View produce a profusion of summer colour. The landscaping at the entrance create the caring atmosphere.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village name signs proclaim a hearty welcome to our village.

Batterstown is naturally blessed by the mature trees that welcome one to the village. Hedges are trimmed and generally the verges are neat. One notes the hedge screen beyond the GAA which will become effective in time. Hedges are an important part of the Batterstown appearance and are well maintained. The area around the GAA needs footpaths and one is pleased that this project is part of your plans. On the Dublin Road the gate at the 50 speed limit if treated would improve that wall which needs some attention. One notes that you plan to work on the wall near Caffreys.

General Impression:

On reading your submission one notes your ambition and feels that the local GAA must have an influence in this group. Apart altogether from improving the quality of life in Batterstown, as you no doubt are doing, ye want to be County Champions. Is there no greater motivational tool than being the underdog against the mighty who have trodden on your ambitions for so long. And why not. Your plans for Batterstown made one eager to see how well you are succeeding and one is not disappointed. Batterstown is a wonderful experience and much of that experience is a credit to you. Well done.