

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Julianstown** Ref: **1217**  
County: **Meath** Mark: **232**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>232</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed entry form, most interesting list of birds and mammals found in the area together with details of the flora and fauna. Thank you also for the photographs and the details of the ambitious community garden.

Since your last adjudication you have suffered the loss of the Old Mill Hotel whose burned out shell is a serious difficulty to contend with. One hopes that matters here will be resolved before next year's adjudication. We applaud your concept of the family tree planting day and hope it went very well. We read with interest and sympathy details of the traffic volumes currently reaching 22,000-23,000 vehicles movements per day. Clearly this is not sustainable. It is to be hoped that your arguments for a by-pass will illicit a suitable response.

Your 12 person committee have been very busy and energetic and you have succeeded in securing a good community response to the planting days and other events. The staging of high profile events which facilitate the involvement and engagement of as many as possible is very much at the core of the tidy town's concept. Clearly your centre now has to contend with two imponderables, the traffic issue and it resolution and the future of the Old Mill Hotel site. For the moment all you can do is continue to monitor and hopefully effect accelerate a solution in respect of either or both of these significant item.

It has been found extremely valuable for centres to commit to paper a simple 3 year programme which outlines their objectives, establishes creditable and attainable objectives, determines a time frame for their achievement and especially identifies the probable lead agency involved in each case.

### **The Built Environment:**

The charming St. Mary Church of Ireland was well presented all be it reconstruction work is now in progress.

The adjacent Church Lodge, tiny and delightful, was very well presented.

The Julianstown Inn again had work in progress the roof being restored and other necessary improvements well in hand. The most unusually designed Catholic Church "all roof" as it was described to me was very well presented and the grounds were excellent. Although some what removed from the village are there any plans for the old church?

### **Landscaping:**

The community garden is a really joy, excellent planting is taking place and we liked the well sited seat. The River Nanny does look well although due to traffic volumes it is certainly difficult to enjoy it. The Golf Course and Pitch and Putt area was very well presented as was the communal grassed areas on various estates. The tree planting along the roads and at other locations are maturing well and these will be progressively more important as each year goes by. The suitable bedding plants and native Irish trees planted along the Laytown Road certainly caught the eye while the pathways, traffic bays and flower circles contributed also to a very pleasant scene.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is obvious from your submission that there is a high degree of expertise available to the committee under this heading. Work at the school is commendable and will have life long beneficial impact on the students there. Don't overlook the opportunities presented by other locations for example the grassed areas of the Anny View Estate or within the Ballygart Manor area. Small areas of ground in here and at Castle Grove offer the opportunity to create small scale nature reserves.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter management generally seem to be working. Your regular litter patrols are succeeding. Congratulations on winning the Anti-Litter League earlier this year and the over all prize for Co. Meath. Very minor amounts of litter were noticed at the 60kpm sign on the Dublin Road. Additional litter bins would be helpful always provided that arrangements are in position to insure their frequent servicing.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the school on achieving Green Flag Status. The school obviously is a powerhouse generating and radiating the concept of waste minimisation throughout the community at large. This is commendable and is the ideal long-term method which will yield the best results.

### **Tidiness:**

There are particular difficulties for anyone trying to present the road in a better way because of the enormous traffic volumes. There was a build up of loose shale at the 50kpm sign on the Dublin Road and quite an amount of spoil at the sides of roads and at the curbs. The Community Centre sign needs to be painted while the Tennis Court looked somewhat sad. Overall the centre was very pleasant and looked neat and orderly.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new houses on the Dublin Road, phase 2, were well presented while the Anny View Estate is a delight. Individually well presented gardens is the order of the day in this estate while the communal grassed area was very well cut with suitable tree planting. Is the very large and intrusive auctioneers sign still necessary? The delightful house leading towards the church with roses over the door and the splendid rhododendrons was an absolute delight. Its garden presentation is a credit.

Castle Grove looked well but the grass would benefit from more frequent cutting. Ballygart Manor featured very good individual houses and gardens with a superb display at the entrance and trees maturing very well throughout the estate.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The positively horrendous volumes of traffic must be very difficult to deal with on an ongoing continuous bases. On the Dublin Road the 50kpm sign is obscured by vegetation. The bus shelter did look well and the village name plate was very well presented with pleasant flowers. The new road is not yet open (phase 2) but will presumably create additional difficulties when traffic is entering the main stream from this direction. The Drogheda Road approach is excellent with tree planted on either side of the road. The village name plate was embellished with a good display of flowers. The Laytown Road verges were suitably but not excessively cut back while the name plate was fresh and suitable albeit devoid of any floral decoration. Signage on the old Duleak Road was a little obscured by vegetation.

**General Impression:**

Julianstown is obviously tackling its problems and accentuating its many positive aspects in a most delightful and colourful way. Thank you for a splendid and thoughtful entry.

All involved in this fine entry are thanked for the efforts and wished well for 2009.