

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Scotshouse** Ref: **1218**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **181**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>181</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your completed application form. Please ensure to fill out all section in future years as there are marks to be gained by the relevant subject matter. Your form indicated that photographs were to follow but there were none on the day of adjudication unfortunately. Photographs can be particularly effective in demonstrating 'before' and 'after' pictures especially if the adjudicator has never been to Scotstown before, like this one! It is good to note that Connolly's and Beatty's Chip Shop continue to offer support. You should consider contacting Monaghan County Council and their Heritage Officer, Conservation Officer and Environment Officer may be able to assist you with future plans. The support of the ICA is commendable. As mentioned by last years adjudicator it is prudent to submit and three to five year development plan to see how you envisage the vilage improving through time.

### **The Built Environment:**

The community Hall was admired for its fresh appearance. The painting of the Church of Ireland would have a massive impact particularly from the Cavan approach as it commands such a strong vantage point. As always the Catholic Church looked fantastic. The pub appeared to have been freshly painted and looked well. The school too looked well however the boundary wall should be painted before next years competition, as mentioned by last years adjudicator. Similarly, the cemetery wall and pump could do with a fresh coat of paint. Dereliction is a problem in most, if not all, towns and villages and Scotshouse is no different.

### **Landscaping:**

The area to the fore of Oakland had been prepared for sewing and will no doubt be an impressive green area by next years competition. Maturing trees at the front row of housing was admired. Planters on the approach roads were in need of replenishment however, the adjudicator did note that the daffodils were still dying off. It was good, therefore, to note that you take pride in the appearance of Scotshouse throughout the year and not

just during the competition! The shrubbery at the housing estate opposite the school was noted. The green area to the fore of the housing development at the bottle bank was quite overgrown on the day of adjudication and this is unfortunate. Is there a residence association? Young trees to the right were thriving here. Please indicate on your map in future years where exactly you intend to do work, for instance you mentioned that you intend to get a garden designer to help with a particular project. Please indicate a timescale for these works also.

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

There is significant potential to gain marks in this section. Could the school children do a wildlife survey and could it be submitted with next years application?

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good on the day of adjudication. A single piece was noted on the Clones approach road. There was a small outbreak at the Bring Bank. There was one significant litter blackspot in Scotshouse and that is the road approaching the school - it was also noted that there was no litter bin on this stretch. Have you considered litter patrols?

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations on winning the 'Best Kept Area' for the bottle bank! You are lucky to have such a sizable bring bank area and you clearly take pride in its appearance. Freshly cut grass was noted to be dumped opposite the School - have you considered developing a composting scheme?

#### **Tidiness:**

You mention in you application that you are hoping that ongoing lobbying of Monaghan County Council will alleviate the dereliction problem and hopefully this will be the case. Your committee should consider taking on the job of cleaning public signage in and around the village as every visitor invariably looks at them! Storage containers and rubble should be removed as soon as developments are complete as that detract from the overall appearance of the village. Please ensure that the pump is painted before next years competition.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Private residences are for the most part well maintained and freshly painted. Of particular note was the house at the bend in the Cavan Road and two impressive residences on the Clones road. The village house with rose garden was also admired. The completed residence at Oakland Grove were gleaming in the early morning sunlight, those remaining under construction will no doubt be completed to the same high standard. Similarly, the housing estate adjacent to the School looked well.

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

The approach roads to Scotshouse were consistently quite well presented. Back areas on the whole were quite disappointing in appearance.

#### **General Impression:**

Ongoing developments in Scotshouse will in time enhance the appearance of the village further. You should consider getting some of the new residents involved in your activities. Best of luck!