

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Threemilehouse** Ref: **553**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **240**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	36
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and the excellent map, which was very helpful to the adjudicator who was visiting Three Mile House for the first time. The committee of 10 has been active in trying to engage the community as a whole to become involved in TidyTowns activities and its endeavours are proving successful. Your relationship with Monaghan County Council is to be commended and this relationship should be strengthened in the years ahead as the village has the potential to achieve a better standing in this competition. Your comments on the adjudication process are noted and you are not alone in bringing this issue to the fore. Unfortunately, as was stated in last years report, it would be quite impossible and indeed cost ineffective to carry out adjudications over a 12 month period. In fairness, I would feel that the competition does encompass all areas of importance under the 10 headings, but of course there is always room for suggestions that reflect the views of active committees such as your own.

The Built Environment:

Every town and village has its own traditions and sense of place, and it is important that these are upheld by all the community. Insensitive developments, dereliction, poor roads surfaces etc. threaten the character of a village or town, and it is important that the committee is on top of such possible problems. Three Mile House has the basics in place in that the road surfaces are good, buildings for the most part are in good condition, especially the public ones such as St Mary's Church adjoining graveyard, and the excellent complex that is Sean McDermott's GAA grounds. Credit is due to the volunteer personnel that look after these premises on behalf of the whole community. The School was a bit disappointing and maybe the Board of Management might consider brightening the exterior gates and wall, and also remove weed growth from base of boundary wall. The new footpath and street lighting on the Clones Road, as well as providing safe access for residents, creates a good impression as one enters the village. An older section of footpath in the central area of the

village is a bit uneven and needs to be refurbished in places, and the broken fencing in the same area should be repaired and painted. The committee should add this to its list of planned projects and get in touch with the Local Authority to ascertain if this work could be done early next year at the latest. Conor's Pub, which is in a very central location, is compact, tidy and complemented by two well stocked planters. Cormack's Shop and PO was also well presented on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements in the Village and its immediate surrounds, especially at the graveyard, were very appropriate. You have made good choices in trees, low maintenance shrubs and various colourful annuals and perennials. There are some excellent private landscaping arrangements, one in particular on the Newbliss Road. Container planting displays in the core of the village were very colourful. It was noticeable that all plants and flowers were in a healthy state because of the care afforded to them.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee should consider getting advice from the County Wildlife Ranger or equivalent person on how to develop a wildlife project that would benefit the community. There are many areas in the village and the surrounding hinterland that could be identified as suitable for simple projects, such as wild flower gardens and/or information notice boards. It is a pity not to avail of the opportunity of expertise in this area and also it would be a good way of involving the school children in getting to know their village and its wildlife history. As regards the problem in relation to dogs, it's a new one to me, I would suggest that you try and make a section of the river bank a dog free or controlled area and designate this section as a suitable project location.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good on adjudication day and the areas of concern mentioned in last years report have been addressed and cleaned up. Good to note that as a committee you are going to meet with the school children to make them aware of the importance of litter control. I would suggest that you also engage with the teachers to get them involved in trying to put together a relevant school project, be it a poster competition or organised junior litter picks. This will be of help to you as a committee.

Waste Minimisation:

A few very good initiatives are being undertaken in connection with both Monaghan County Council and McElvaney Waste. Keep encouraging people to get involved in the Race Against Waste movement and also consult the relevant website to get ideas on possible worthwhile community environmental projects. Let's hope that you will be successful in sorting the recycling centre with Monaghan County Council.

Tidiness:

As the village is in the middle of farming country, it is subject to farm related activity and traffic such as harvesters and large tractors with silage equipment. Invariably these tend to create residue at kerbsides and on footpaths, and one has to be vigilant to make sure that this type of material is cleaned up regularly. There were some pockets of residue at kerbsides in certain sections of the village. The central area of the village between the two housing estates, (no names!) is a little untidy because of the previously mentioned uneven footpaths and the broken post and rail fencing. Also there was a rusty implement of sorts near the village seat and flower tubs, which is a little unsightly.

Residential Areas:

The encouragement to local residents to maintain properties in good order has been successful, as most were in acceptable condition. The buildings in the main centre of the village, both commercial and private, have been well presented. The houses, gardens and green areas, in both sections of the estate and in the centre of village, were presented to a high standard and credit is due to the local residents that have put time and effort into their properties. The area is not best served by the condition of the already mentioned fencing and footpaths, so hopefully you will be in a position to lobby Monaghan County Council to get remedial work done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrances into the village and links within were in quite good condition. The Corcaghan entrance was cut back

as recommended and had visible signs. Clones entrance had excellent wide road surface and both the Threemilehouse identification sign and the Go Mall sign were clearly visible and clean. The back road, out of the village to Monaghan up by the Church and School, was also in good condition, helped by a nice shrub bed at Cormaics Shop cross; signs on this road were also clean and visible.

General Impression:

Three Mile House is a very pleasant village to visit and is typical of the rural village that one associates with County Monaghan. It has its problems, but the Committee has successfully addressed some of these. More importantly the village has the potential to gain more ground in the competition and the adjudicator suggests that just do what is being done at the moment – no need for over elaboration – and be conscious of issues that may arise in the future. Keep up the good work and you are wished well for the future.