

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Mullaghmore** Ref: **315**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **232**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Mullaghmore Active is welcome to the 2009 competition. You have a small committee given the extent of the village and the number of houses contained therein, albeit many are holiday homes and not occupied year-round. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council. Do you work with other statutory bodies? Many thanks for your application form and map which were both very useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

The restoration of the Mullaghmore Schoolhouse is an excellent initiative and we look forward to seeing the final results. It will be a great asset to the local community. The commercial premises of the village at the harbour area looked well. The Mullaghmore Sailing Club building was admired, sunk subtly below ground with a grass roof. The marvellous high walls of the harbour make for a dramatic sense of enclosure. Perhaps Lomax Boats yard area could be screened from public view? Star of the Sea Retreat and Conference Centre was well maintained, although some weeds were apparent to the kerbsides in front. The Beach and the Pierhead Hotels both looked well. Chinatown was very fresh in yellow. The Spa and Leisure Centre looked well in stone. It was disappointing to see the hoardings around the site for sale, this is an occurrence happening around the country - incomplete building projects.

Landscaping:

The marvellous picnic areas and large expanses of grass were as well maintained as ever. The fact that you have chosen suitable seaside plants is particularly impressive. The landscaped area at the castle gate lodge was well maintained and is an attractive welcome to the village. The raised stone bed adjacent to the phone boxes was most attractive. The picnic area with its sea view and displays of carnations and cape daisies was admired at the top of the village. The treatment of cutting grass close and then letting it grow longer further

back is an attractive approach.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We were disappointed to hear of the abandonment of the nature park on the approach road to the village, particularly as you had spent time, effort and money on its design. What objections did people have to it? Have you considered studying the unique wildlife habitats of the area? We read with interest of your sand dune preservation activities, what format does this take?

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day, given that Mullaghmore is such a busy village, with its many visitors. A few papers were apparent on the roadsides. Your regular litter collections and work with the local authority in this regard are obviously paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

Your work in regard to making visitors aware of waste disposal facilities is a good idea. What other work do you do in this area? Do you compost grass cutting etc? Do you encourage residents to compost/reduce-reuse-recycle?

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was reasonably good on the day, with little evidence of neglect. You mention an annual weed spraying with the help of FAS. What sort of weed control do you use, is it one that would be considered good for the environment? The rusty frame at the car park entrance should be treated and re-painted before next year's competition. Have you considered screening the entrance to the caravan park on the approach to the village? Is the chip van in operation or abandoned? Could it be relocated to a less prominent location when not in use?

Residential Areas:

The individual houses and housing estates of Mullaghmore appeared well cared for on the day. Have you considered conducting a local gardens/estates competition? Do local estates take part in the Best Kept Estates Competition run by Sligo County Council? The Arbour Hill estate was well maintained with attractive open spaces. Some of the grass verges to houses on the seafront were in need of trimming. The castle gate-lodge is an attractive and unusual house. Seacrest B&B was quite fresh. The houses along the circular road were somewhat varied, with one or two ruined properties but mostly maintained to a high standard. The stone towered house and modern house opposite were particularly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach road was well cared for on the day. It was a magnificent approach to the village on a sunny June day with the marvellous views to the bay filled with sailing boats, and backdrop of mountains behind. The verges were well cut, with attractive stone walling to one side and ditch on the other. The timber nameplate sign was admired. Some Perspex appeared to be missing from the phone boxes. The cliff and circular road were well maintained and attractive.

General Impression:

Mullaghmore is an attractive and busy village, which looked well cared for on the day. It is a unique village given its layout and magnificent location. It was a pleasure to re-visit on adjudication day.