

Tidy Towns Competition 2011

Adjudication Report

Centre: **St Mullins** Ref: **1155**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **280**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2011**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2010 | Mark Awarded 2011 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 45 | 45 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 34 | 34 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 36 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 32 | 32 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 36 | 37 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 9 | 9 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 27 | 27 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 31 | 33 |
| General Impression | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 277 | 280 |

Overall Development Approach:

St Mullins Amenity & Recreational Tourism Ltd is welcome to the TidyTowns Competition for 2011. Thank you for your submission, for your most useful map, for all of the supplementary items. The survey of the village confirms that your group has great community support. It is clear that you have a lot of voluntary support in your work. The list of agencies with which you engage mirrors the needs of your village. The adjudicator is glad to read that participation in the competition generates pride in your village among the people of St Mullins, the results of that pride are obvious. As regards the presentation of your submission, accessing the answers to questions would be made easier if the writer used bullet points or numerals. There is a lot of content in the Overall Development Approach section that does not answer the questions in this section directly but does give a valuable overview of the difficulties facing your committee. If the difficulties were bullet pointed they would stand out more for the reader. There is always the danger when using essay style format that some questions will not be answered. For instance, it helps the adjudicator to know how many members there are on the committee but that information seems to be missing.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of St Mullins is centred around the ancient and more recent history of this delightful village. St Mullins himself has left an indelible mark on the village, the outstanding remaining feature being the Blessed Well which is now a rallying point for natives not living at home who return for the Pattern day. The visit home may be the cure of the Well. The Normans have left their distinctive mark with their Motte, well preserved and lovingly maintained. The Church of Ireland building is also well preserved and is now a most well laid out and interesting Heritage Centre. The Mass Rock from the Penal Laws is still remembered in the stone wall at the centre of the cemetery. The graves of the martyrs of 1798 are marked in special reverence. A rich and varied history book is still open and readable in the form of the built environment of the village. What a treasure. The importance of the river, the Barrow, is evident in the ruins of the grain store and the

lonely derelict house of the Odlums. It is a pity to see so many buildings deteriorating down at the river. The best of luck to the people who run the café enterprise down here. In serving their delicious soup they are helping to preserve the building. Their enterprise lifts the spirit.

Landscaping:

The landscaping of the St Mullins displays the affection the people have for their heritage and their village. It is stunning. An example of attention to detail is the treatment of the cemetery walls. The base of the walls of the cemetery are planted and well looked after. In case railings did not look well enough, they have been given boxes of summer colour. The brightly painted cart, teeming with colour, represents the farming element of the social history of St Mullins. The importance of the river is represented with the boat filled with summer bedding. Add in the natural vegetation of the surroundings. A special mention of the bed atop the wall at the New Ross approach road welcome stone.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

St Mullins is surrounded by a wilderness of green infrastructure. A natural haven for wildlife. Full use is made of the river, a delightful walk to Graiguenamanagh. Well done to the committee for creating your own designated wildlife patch but it seems a bit incongruous as the whole area is a wildlife patch. Further congratulations on having speakers on the wildlife route as guides. The information boards on the fish, the birds of the river help create an awareness of our surroundings. The artwork is most suitable.

Litter Control:

When one sees members of the community out slaving to keep the place looking beautiful it seems like a sacrilege to find the bits of litter about. All pieces were plastic bottles. There were no children or teenagers to be seen. Your litter awareness programmes seem to be getting through to the youth of the area. Lets blame the visitors for the bottles. How can these offenders be made aware the St Mullins is a litter free zone?

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on all of your waste minimisation measures to date. Notice that all relate to recycling. As a project for the coming year broaden your base to reusing and reducing. As resources in helping you in doing this use a website on [stopfoodwaste](http://stopfoodwaste.com) or visit greenhomes.ie. The emphasis in both of these sites is on reducing domestic waste, a concept you could sell to your residents.

Tidiness:

One is surprised that the approach road from New Ross appears a bit rough. There may be wildlife considerations involved but even so it does not create the sign that a village is coming up. Ye must be very proud of the welcome stones. There is a bit of a wall on this same road that needs attention.

Residential Areas:

St Mullins is a sparsely populated rural village with the housing scattered. But the houses are well presented and add colour and texture to their surroundings. The house after the bridge merits special mention for design, maintenance and presentation. Hopefully the situation in the estate will improve. The next step, if it has not been taken, is to invite the new residents to become part of your Tidy Towns movement.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads are from Graiguenemanagh and New Ross. Road surfaces are fine but the adjudicator would like to see more attention paid to the definition of the road verges. The car park surprised the adjudicator. One did not expect to find such a well appointed car park in this little village. Well done to all responsible.

General Impression:

St Mullins is a hidden gem, hidden in the most beautiful surroundings. It could be a forgotten and forlorn sight were it not for the pride of generations in the place in which they live. That pride is expressed in the preservation of their monuments of the past. One expression of pride is the foresight of the people who saw to it that the roof did not fall in on the Church of Ireland building. Look at it to-day. But there are other roofs down by the river that may also need corresponding foresight.

