

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Reaghstown**

Ref: **498**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **296**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **15/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	50	36	38
Landscaping	50	40	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22	25
Litter Control	50	43	43
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	13
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	37
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	289	296

Overall Development Approach:

Reaghstown is welcome to the 2013 National TidyTowns Competition, it was a pleasure to revisit your village; thank you for your submission with the Biodiversity Management Plan Summary and your TidyTowns Plan. It is good to note the integrated nature of the village and that Reaghstown promotes itself as an 'Inclusive Community'. The information leaflet on all that is happening locally is a very worthwhile initiative. Links with village stakeholders are well established and communication methods are effective. Engagement with the Tallonstown primary is noted particularly in relation to the Green Flag and Green Home Programmes.

The Built Environment:

The church and its grounds continue to be presented to a high standard; well done on the installation of disabled access. The restoration of the 'Kissing Gate' is a novel and worthwhile initiative. The revealing of the two stone walls is invaluable, both in their own distinctive ways. Well done also on the construction of the gate pillars and the completion of other building projects. The car parking area of the Danny Boy Lounge Bar urgently needs resurfacing and delineation together with appropriate landscaping to 'soften' its extensive area and put an end to weed growth here.

Landscaping:

The church is beautifully framed between mature trees on arriving back in the village from the graveyard. The old milk churns are a nice feature. Some further work as regards planting or landscaping is necessary for the grass bank located across from the Litter League board on the entrance from the N2. (the one planted with wild flowers which failed?) The entrance from the N2 is marked by nice landscaping, picnic site and other features (the memorial stone is a lovely touch to a valued supporter of TidyTowns in Reaghstown). Grassed verges at the N2 are maintained, neatly trimmed and trees are maturing well. The little nameplate, picnic site and park at the entrance from the Tallanstown Road is charming. The water pump is nicely painted and the stone here which has some soil has yet to be planted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on the acquisition of your Biodiversity Management Plan and thank you for the details provided on the two small surveys, we look forward to continuing developments under this heading particularly in respect

of wildlife interpretive panels; it is good to note that the plan summary has been circulated to households and we wish you well with the commission of a more in-depth study. The installation of nesting boxes and feeding tables are noted favourably.

Litter Control:

Litter control continues to be strong in Reaghstown, congratulations on your Gold Medal status in the Louth Litter League. Daily and special weekly litter picks together with participation in the National Spring Clean has served to heighten community awareness on the issue of litter. The bin audit has been worthwhile.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Congratulations on Reaghstown's participation in the Green Homes Programme and thank you for a copy of the leaflet distributed to households and survey results subsequently sent for analysis; it is this type of activity that makes waste prevention at source possible; hopefully monitoring of success in waste prevention will become the norm in the community. Your composting initiative is acknowledged and it is good to note that collected litter is segregated for recycling. The recycling point is being neatly maintained. Thank you also for the tip regarding the use of old coal bags, your adjudicator will put this information to good use!

Tidiness:

What appears to have been the old forge is neatly boarded up to its window and door apertures and looks tidy. Weed control is good and street furniture enjoys good maintenance. The absence of graffiti is favourably noted. The overall appearance of Reaghstown is one of tidiness; well done.

Residential Areas:

Mountain View is a beautiful little development with nicely painted properties, planting and neatly maintained grass verges; the planter here could feature a tall central plant against which to contrast the marigolds and other low bedding plants. A few containers at a residential property look as though their plants are dead or out of season and should be replaced. Residential properties within the immediate environs of the church are all beautifully presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to Reaghstown enjoy an excellent standard of maintenance including an unidentified road with attractive verges and trees. What appears to be a large car park is well surfaced and beautifully landscaped around its perimeter. The 'Caution, Children at Play' sign could be refurbished. The links with the farming community are commendable resulting in attractively painted gates and piers. The resurfacing of roads in the village centre gives Reaghstown a finished look.

General Impression:

The standard of presentation achieved for Reaghstown in the Tidy Towns Competition is impressive and all the more so given that it has been realised by such a small community.