

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullyallen** Ref: **500**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **275**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **26/06/2015**

|   | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2014</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded 2015</b> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning          | 60                      | 49                           | 49                           |
| Built Environment and Streetscape         | 50                      | 35                           | 35                           |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces               | 50                      | 35                           | 36                           |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities  | 50                      | 21                           | 21                           |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50                      | 9                            | 10                           |
| Tidiness and Litter Control               | 90                      | 56                           | 56                           |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas       | 50                      | 31                           | 33                           |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes           | 50                      | 34                           | 35                           |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>                         | <b>450</b>              | <b>270</b>                   | <b>275</b>                   |

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Tullyallen is welcome to the 2015 Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition.

Thank you for the well prepared entry form, 2014-2019 plan and map which was more than useful to the adjudicator as this was his first visit to the village adjacent to Drogheda.

It was very useful for the adjudicator to read the instruction resume which just gave a back drop the activities of your committee.

Good to note that you have given recognition to the retired gentlemen that have taken on the task of the ongoing maintenance of the restored graveyard in the introduction to your new 5 year plan.

5 year planning can be a little too far ahead for a voluntary committee that may change significantly in that period but overall it's an excellent document with practical and achievable objectives

The committee of 4 acts as the executive and tasks are obviously assigned to individuals or groups of individuals and this is really the best way to get things done.

The number of meetings is sufficient and the interaction with other community committees is strong and fruitful.

Getting the support of the local business people and indeed the community can often be difficult for organisations such as tidy towns but it is a testament to our work to date that you have such good support.

Having representation from residents associations helps you achieve your main objective of showing Tullyallen in the best light.

The number of agencies that you are working with is quite impressive and the maxim here is to get the best of what's on offer that will benefit your village.

Case and pint is the funding for the plan from Louth Leader, indeed the same organisations seem to have funded quite a number of similar formatted plans in the county

Communication methods are a mix of what you have been doing over the years by way of community notes in local papers and news letters.

If you haven't done so already it would be worthwhile to engage with some of the many forms of social media that are on-stream.

Good relationships with local schools should be one of the main objectives of any tidy towns committee and you have achieved this with the local national school

It is also heartening to report on the positives that the village has gained from being in the competition over 10 years.

You're not alone when it comes to concerns about being a commuter village and the difficulty that entails when recruiting new members.

The adjudicator would encourage you to keep spreading the message via the residents associations.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The adjudicator was rather surprised that the village and surrounds were larger than seemed at first or maybe it was the fact that he traversed all including the outskirts on foot !

At this juncture a suggestion that when including the map for next year you would number reference the projects on the side as it saves time switching back and forth between entry form and plan.

The Village Welcome Board is a very good and useful addition and well done to the traders that supported this initiative, it was also useful to adjudicator in identifying places.

Tullyallen Bronze Age Settlement panel might be replicated this central part of the village for visitor information purposes.

The thatched Morning Star pub was presented in good condition and the new owners are to be congratulated in acceding to your request to refurbish the premises and it has good ratings on trip advisor

The RC Church of Our Lady of the Assumption was in very good condition with excellent accessibility and sufficient car parking for worshipers but the adjoining community hall was in need of a complete makeover.

The Graveyard was in exceptional condition and has been commented on in the previous section and the adjudicator is not surprised that it is a regular prize winner in the Louth Looking Good Awards.

Corkscrew Brassiere is a nice compact premises with an understated but excellent name sign and it was thriving on what was a fine summers lunchtime.

The Village Barbers premise was also nice and tidy but the little Fuel Store, which had two conflicting signs, was in a bad state of presentation and the area surrounding it was very untidy.

The boundary wall in front of these premises needs some remedial work but that may be a task outside the control of the committee.

The local take away might be prevailed upon to put a less garish name sign on its premises.

The local shopping area with Mace as the anchor tenant was a well maintained business unit but the parking was somewhat chaotic at times.

Boundary wall at these premises is in need of a coat of paint as it looks quite stained at present.

Well done to the Glen Emmetts GAA Club members for having their facility in such good condition with clearly marked car parking spaces and a fine pitch.

Overall the standard was good with some room for improvement as outlined in the comments above.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

The standard in this category was very good and it looks as if a big effort had gone into maintaining existing landscaping arrangements and putting in place a number of new ones

The rockery at the entrance to the Glen Estate was admired for its combination planting which was very effective, trees and green areas here were maintained to a very high standard.

The other areas mentioned in your submission were visited and looked extremely well especially the box hedge bed on the Collon Road.

Well done to the Gleann Alain residents for taking it upon themselves to enhance their own estate with additional tree planting.

The following are some further observations that the adjudicator noted on his walk about;

A well maintained green in St Malachy's Avenue could be considered for some additional planting in the future.

Burton Hall green area could be softened somewhat by additional planters and the fencing needs to be repaired.

Nice shrub arrangement at the Louth Litter League Award sign needs to be monitored to ensure that it doesn't become too crowded thus losing its effectiveness.

The shrub bed at the Morning Star needs to be revamped in the coming year and maybe the committee could consult with owner to see if this can be done.

The concrete planters at a focal point in the village, seating area at church sign, are overgrown and should be cleared and replaced with summer season arrangement or effective long term combination.

Overall the standard was very good and the positives outweighed the negatives so an increase in marks is warranted.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

The adjudicator visited Townley Hall and its magnificent grounds and what a haven it is for all species of wildlife, just a comment was the Nature Walk put in place last year or this year as it has been mentioned in last year's report.

You have made great strides with the work done on the banks of the village stream and this is an excellent area for the preservation of various forms of wildlife such as birds attracted to hedging plus insects and butterflies.

Make sure that it is monitored for litter on an ongoing basis as a few pieces such as coke cans and a plastic bottle were seen in part of it.

Also, if you have not done so, engage with both the school and the wildlife officer for the county to investigate the possibility of doing a wildlife survey specific to your area.

Results of this could be interpreted in a visual form by way of an information panel to complement the Village Welcome Map.

Overall the standard of work done in the last year was good and relevant to the category.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Some excellent examples of how to reuse waste material has been highlighted in this section and the co operation between your local V&W Recycling Centre is to be commended.

This is the first instance of this type of practical approach that the adjudicator has come across this year.

Maybe the pupils of Tullyallen NS School should be seconded to Irish Water to sort the water leaks problem!

Prior to next year's competition the committee should examine the prevention of waste when considering projects for submission.

The emphasis nationally is on the need for the prevention rather than waste management alone.  
www.localprevention.ie for project ideas, contact local environmental officer for upcoming information nights and also link into the EPA website for an update on the status of the National Strategy for Waste Prevention.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Again the ongoing work that you as a committee are involved in is helping to promote awareness of good litter control amongst both the business community and the greater population.

Well done on achieving a gold medal in the Louth Litter League and while the standard was good there were some negatives as well most notably at the shopping/business centre where there was a greater influx of people and also in the stream.

Good idea to refresh the bins in the colours of the local Glen Emmetts GAA Club; let's hope they are supported like the team are.

Some untidy areas have been already mentioned in the built section but need to be addressed under this category as well.

The bring bank area had an old bin that was full to the brim and about to over flow, maybe it could be replaced with new one in the near future.

Overall standard in this category was good.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Most of the housing developments, and they are many for such a small village, were visited and the adjudicator was very impressed with the measures taken by different residents associations to show off their respective areas in the best light possible.

For this effort and the results that have ensued an increase in marks is warranted.

The following are a few personal observations of the adjudicator;

St Malachy's Avenue an older established area in the village looked very well with its green area well cut and some very nice gardens with colourful annuals and rose beds.

Lavin Park is a similar established estate with nice name stone, needs to be sand blasted, good green area.

Most homesteads were very well maintained but like every large development there were a few dissenters and these need to be encouraged or cajoled to do their bit for the cause.

The Glen and Gleann Alainn both previously mentioned in a different context have a very good approach to keeping both properties and communal green areas in good condition.

A few boundary walls as one enters The Glen could do with being dashed or cleaned they are just more than a little stained.

Townley Manor was in good condition as well with a nice green area and Arda Raith Wood is a smaller estate where homesteads were well presented and front gardens maturing nicely.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Looking at the map provided and trying to find ones bearings, the area called Soldiers Trenches took my attention and what its history was, further research will be undertaken on this unusual towns land name.

The entrances in to the village were very well maintained and the result of the €850,000 public money spent was very evident as the quality of road surfacing and footpath construction was top class.

There is a very attractive stone shrub bed at one of the Litter League Panels as one enters of f the main road which could overgrow and obscure the sign.

A few side lanes in the village proper were a little messy one in particular which seems to a vehicle repair shop further in.

The Children's Play area at the GAA complex ha some fine and was in good condition but the little path from the car park should be treated with tarmac as it is a little rough and gritty.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

Overall the standard was good and the village has benefited from the work that has been undertaken which has earned an increase of an additional mark.