

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scotstown**

Ref: **268**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **186**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	183

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your excellent map and completed form. As stated last year as part of this section of the competition, you are requested to submit a 3/5 year working plan. Using the headings of the competition, the committee should create a simple list of attainable objectives so that it and the adjudicator can measure progress from year to year. Perhaps you could tackle your sponsorship issue like some other entrants with fund-raising events and collections. Use the T.T. Handbook for ideas and to identify the many bodies that could assist you in the competition.

The Built Environment:

The Scotstown community continues to grow and expand. The school, GAA centre, Rossmore Furniture, butchers and shop all looked well. The sympathetically restored church, with its disabled access toilets and lovely stained glass, also looked very well.

Landscaping:

Last year's comments still apply and need to be considered in your plans. The green is in the heart of the village and is seen, used and enjoyed by all. The pump, seats and railings need their paint work refreshed. The grass is tidy, but the perennial beds that supply colour and content all year round need to be tidied or filled out with similar new planting. A village colour scheme and a

standard livery colour for your benches and bins could look well. Some of both need repainting and this should be considered. The mixed beds throughout the village all looked well, adding a lovely splash of colour to the streetscape. Your young trees are plentiful and doing well, adding to the many fine mature trees in the village. The copper beech and chestnuts at the bridge, and the lovely tree lined avenue to the church caught the eye again this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The visionary millennium community park is a wonderful asset to the village. I hope the community and committee realise the value of it fully and how other communities would be envious of this accessible facility. The trees with their multi-lingual signs and protection are doing well. The wild grass areas are noted and there is plenty of bird life (as well as a very tame rabbit). However, it was disappointing to see beer cans in the algae covered pond overshadowing the lovely water lily. The benches here are ready for a repaint. The committee should consider a trail and suitable information board, as well as introducing some nectar/fruit producing plants, bat boxes and bird water and sand baths to fully optimise this lovely area.

Litter Control:

There was some litter on the way to and in the park. A suitable bin is needed here.

Tidiness:

Last year's comments still apply. Some simple tidying in exposed sites and open areas as well as the use of some good screening gates, as used in some places already, would be of benefit. Some cosmetic paintwork, as used effectively on the two storey white house, would help the village's appearance. The galvanised shed at the top of the green also needs attention. These issues need full cooperation from all of the community and some hard work, but they will make a real difference to the appearance of the village.

Residential Areas:

In a small village every property makes a contribution to the overall appearance of the village. Many houses looked very well with some lovely gardens, flowers, tidy hedges and boundaries noted. Well done to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There was a mixed standard of road surfaces and some need attention after last year's major works. Similarly many of the old road signs need to be replaced. Good footpaths and new lamps were noted.

General Impression:

A pleasant return visit to a village that is improving but has yet to reach its full potential. Last year's comments still apply.