

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scotstown**

Ref: **497**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **185**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	27	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
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	185	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

The map supplied with the entry form was very helpful in locating all the areas within the village. For this part of the adjudication – under this heading, a three to five year plan is required. This can be a simple plan in which all the items that you wish to achieve in the village are listed and a time scale is placed upon them – together with how, by whom and in what manner they will be progressed. There is considerable need for upgrading in the village at this stage. The greens in particular have become a little rundown and in need of attention. There are a number of buildings, yards and sites that could be improved. A plan developed with the committee in conjunction with all interested parties and the Council will enable direction forward to be mapped out clearly.

The Built Environment:

The village is nicely formed allowing for the presentation of most of the buildings clustered close to the crossroads. This makes for a very traditional village and it would be good to build on this asset and develop further on this basis. The buildings are in good condition. A number need attention to paint and general décor especially road frontages Old petrol pumps and yards need attention. The School is looking very smart with fresh paint. The road frontage wall of the school needs paint. The stone entrance wall adjacent to the school is very attractive Across the road from the school the business premises are well tended and the inclusion of the trees to the front as well as the ivy planted on the wall of one of the buildings is very good. The church is a fine asset in the village and has been nicely restored. The carparking and access to the cemetery and wildlife park is very

functional. On the Tydavet road the footbridge is a very novel idea and one, which could be copied well in many towns and villages in Ireland where bridges are so narrow they put pedestrians at risk. The stone facing on the wall at the GAA grounds is attractive and this same stone is also noted at places along this road.

Landscaping:

The most prominent landscape feature in the village is the main green – the smaller green is also in a very prominent position. These greens have great potential. At present the standard of grass care could be improved considerably. The seating, pump and planters are all in need of attention and this area should figure highly in the plan for development over the next few years. Along the main street there are a number of containers that need to be replanted and painted or tidied. Gardens along the roadside are the main contributors to the village landscape and they are doing a fine job in this respect. Perhaps later in the summer the colour will emerge when the containers are planted. Trees play a very important part of the village and surrounds. The trees by the church approach are especially valuable in this regard. The enormous copper beeches are a lovely feature here. Landscaping at the new housing estate Gola Crest is interesting – good planting is evident along the inside bank facing the housing and the use of thorn boundary hedge is in keeping with the surrounding countryside. St. Dymnna's estate needs attention to the island border to the road frontage. The tree planting opposite this is developing well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild life park is a lovely asset to the village and a great place for tranquil strolling near the church and cemetery, which may appeal to many. The park has matured well with the trees progressing steadily. The mown pathways through the natural vegetation give a lovely effect. The pond is a little untidy and could benefit from a clean up. Gathering of information about this park and all the wildlife that inhabits it would be worthwhile. Hopefully the nearby school uses this park for educational purposes. Many people owe their interest and appreciation of nature to the knowledge they received in their childhood and hopefully this practice continues.

Litter Control:

There is a reasonably good level of litter cleanliness in the village. Some litter was noted along the street, at the green and also by the pond. Constant vigilance is needed to keep a place litter free. The recycling banks are very useful and the area around them is very clean

Tidiness:

The main street with its neat paving and well-presented footpaths gives a neat appearance to the village. However there are a number of items that take a little form this – for instance, the old petrol pumps and exposure of materials from yards behind. The greens are also untidy at present due to the state of the seat, pump and containers. Building work always causes some disruption to tidiness and the house renovation when complete will resolve this. The removal of overhead cables has helped greatly and the new lamp standards are attractive.

Residential Areas:

The new housing estate Gola Crest is attractive and when all landscaping and building is complete this will settle in very well. St. Dymnna's estate is well tended. The individual houses on each of the roads from the village look well. Houses and gardens contribute very well to the overall appearance of the village, as they are prominent on the roadsides. The main street housing is clean and neat and it is great to have people living in the centre of the village creating a very good community spirit.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are variable with some attention needed in places. Footpaths are well cared for and the recent paving make surfaces very attractive. On the approach roads there is a nice natural look resulting from the retention of wild flowers by the roadside and the fact that these have not been too severely cut back.

General Impression:

Scotstown is a pleasant place to visit. The crossroads village centre gives a very attractive character to the village and the church, wild life park and school all nearby are attractive features.