

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Scotstown** Ref: **542**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **206**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>206</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your unusually candid photographs of untidy sites in Scotstown, some of which had already been improved by the date of the visit. Thank you too for your very clear and detailed map. No major new projects were found to have been instituted, the work of the year seemingly to have been concentrated in keeping what is existing up to standard.

### **The Built Environment:**

The principal building of architectural interest, the church, was superbly maintained as always. It is an exceptionally fine building, both outside and in, its unique galleries, memorial sculpture and windows suggesting a parish of considerable wealth and good taste at a period usually considered to be a one of depression. Perhaps you would consider, as a future project, creating a public plaque giving the history of the church and neighbourhood - somewhat like the village plaque so much admired in Tydavnet. It was good to find an industrial premises, Rossmore Furniture, with such a neat frontage and curtilages. The School and An Sportlann were exemplary in their presentation. There seems to be a tradition in Scotstown for business premises and other buildings in the main street to be uniformly grey: if this is a genuine tradition, then they should be left as they are; if not, perhaps the precedent of Cork/Kerry-like strong colour set by Moy's should be followed - only the local people can decide on such an issue.

### **Landscaping:**

The green, and the plantings at the apex of roads to Knockatallon, Roslea and Smithborough, give a pleasing focus to this important intersection. In general, the village could do with more greenery and especially trees, for the main street is rather bleak - such as by kerbs and on footpaths - an expensive but ultimately very satisfying procedure. The tree-lined verges on the Smithborough road impressed greatly - this is the best approach to Scotstown and it would be good to see similar on all approach roads. The numerous tubs and

hanging baskets added colour and a sense of care. The widespread graveyards were all well kept, but weeding was badly needed in the rosebed at the church.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The chief feature under this heading is the Millennium Park, where the trees, with their useful name-tags, were thriving. The park itself was not seen to be thriving, for the grounds were unkempt and all the paths were weedy. When a challenging new project is taken on, provision must be made for its upkeep throughout the year. New signs directing the visitor to this park were appreciated, as was the Co Monaghan flora and fauna illustrated board.

#### **Litter Control:**

There was very little disposable litter in Scotstown on adjudication day. Your daily collections have clearly paid off. Congratulations to the voluntary helpers who undertake to keep the village litter free, and to the children who participate in the annual clean-up.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You have left this item blank on the entry form. The mark is an average one given in centres where this new category does not seem to have been assimilated as yet; it is a category that will become more and more important as time goes on. You should study the document circulated about initiatives in this matter before next year. Your bring bank was very tidy, and it is understood that you provide this facility for other villages.

#### **Tidiness:**

Although weed growth had been cleared from several walls and buildings, some poorly presented walls were still to be seen - such as the high wall adjacent to Moy's and the stained wall running towards McCague's. It was astonishing that such a handsome handsome old house here should be derelict, and said that it is so conspicuous. There was a great deal of kerbside weed alongside a run of houses on the Roslea road. The derelict shed on the Knockatallon road was still in evidence - unless a mistake has been made in identifying one of the photographs. The old petrol pump appeared to have been replaced by a tasteful planter! but the building behind it was still somewhat shabby. On the other side of the main street there are houses that require reinstatement. A roadside section of the graveyard wall was surprisingly in need of painting.

#### **Residential Areas:**

In general, the newer houses appeared to be better presented than the old. What should turn out to be a very attractive scheme of houses of varying sizes but matching design (not marked on the map, on the Roslea road) was very favourably noted. It is hoped that pavements will be completed before it becomes fully residential and that all builders' debris will be removed. The estate of white houses on the same road (also not shown on the map) but nearer the village looked very well. The older estate on the Monaghan road was well kept, though two or three houses were in need of freshening up with paint. A resident on the same road was seen to be making excellent use of antique gate-pillars and a stone wall.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road surfaces were fair to good. Well kept car parks were seen at the furniture factory, the church and the bring bank. Your photographs suggest that lengths of new paving had been laid and the kerbs neatly filled in. The lamp standards in the village centre were of very good design indeed.

#### **General Impression:**

Scotstown is improving slowly but fairly surely on almost all fronts, but there has been no major breakthrough in any one category. Untidy 'corners' and stained boundary walls still give an unpleasing effect in some places. You have done well in your litter control programme. It does take an immense amount of dedication and hard work to keep any village up to a reasonable standard, and those qualities are not lacking in Scotstown. Best wishes for your continued endeavours.