

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scotstown** Ref: **542**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **213**
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Scotstown is most welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. The village is spread out over quite a large geographical area so your committee of eight certainly has their work cut out. Have you considered having a Youth Tidy Town Committee to assist with your work and in turn involve some of the local parents?

Highlighting upcoming initiatives and events in the parish bulletin is a good idea and you are commended too on your involvement with the Environment Section of Monaghan County Council. Your map was very clear and the inclusion of photos make judging and allocation of marks much easier! As mentioned by last years adjudicator you really should complete the application form in full as there are marks to be gained by doing this. It is also advisable to submit a three year plan of activities for Scotstown.

The Built Environment:

Rossmore Furniture, House of Hair and Spar were all admired for their fresh appearance on the day of adjudication. The pointing of the bridge was a substantial undertaking and you are commended for your work here. Similarly, the Pharmacy and Chunky Chip were tidily presented. The seating at the village green was noted. The village pump and its surrounds provide interest at the Green. Cracked glass in Henrys Bar should be replaced before next years competition. Moyna's sets the standard with colourful hanging baskets in bloom adding a welcome splash of colour. The School was neat and tidy and the Church as ever looked well at the end of the tree lined avenue. Sportlann Mhuire had been freshly painted and its refreshing to note that the advise of last years adjudicator was followed.

Landscaping:

Creepers at Rossmore Furniture are maturing well and in time will provide further coverage. A neat hedge was noted here also. The well cut grass and mature trees at the Green provide a marvellous focal point in Scotstown. There were many and varied planters throughout the village which had not et been planted - these

should be replenished or removed. Indeed some of them required to be repaired. Brackets for hanging baskets were noted at McCagues - perhaps they be in use this time next year! The landscaped area to the fore of the terraced houses on the Monaghan road was admired for its well cut grass, mature trees and rose beds. However, the planters were a little overgrown on the day of adjudication.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Please provide further information as to how you maintain the wildlife park behind the school. Perhaps the school children could get involved do a wildlife survey and give you a short report to submit with next years application?

Litter Control:

The housing estate on the Monaghan road was litter free on the day of adjudication and it would appear that the County Councils 'Clean it Up' sign is working. Well done! Odd pieces of litter were noted at various points throughout the village, at the seating area of the green, near McCagues and on approach roads. There were drinks bottles and cartons in the graveyard and the alleyway between Henrys Bar and the new development was somewhat of a litter trap which is unfortunate.

Waste Minimisation:

It is imperative that you include information as to efforts towards waste minimisation as there are 20 marks to be gained here. Again, perhaps the school children could submit a short report and photos as to their efforts to recycle materials? You mention in your application that you liaise with the Environment Section of Monaghan County Council so perhaps thier Officer can provide assistance to you in this regard?

Tidiness:

Scotstown is relatively neat in its overall appearance. However, the presence of partially collapsed farm buildings detracts for the overall impression. The cleaning or removal of signs eg. Shell, and indeed public signage would hugely enhance the appearance of the village. As mentioned previously, broken planters should be removed or replaced. Kerbside weeds are problematic at the housing estate.

Residential Areas:

The new development to the rear of House of Hair was immaculate and indeed was glistening in the early morning sunshine. The house opposite the green with the red bricked porch was admired for its hanging baskets and window boxes. An impressive residence with stone wall and black railing almost opposite the cemetery was pristine in its presentation. The housing estate on the Monaghan Road was, for the most part, well presented and No. 16, The Gables was admired for its fresh appearance and pretty window box.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In general, roads and streets are quite well presented. Issues mentioned earlier like presentation of signage is important.

General Impression:

Scotstown has significant potential to progress in the TidyTowns Competition. There are many attractive fetures that can be showcased further. Of course public support is key to this and it is hoped that you will overcome this hurdle in time. We look forward to your participation the the 2009 competition!