

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scotstown** Ref: **542**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **226**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2011**

|                                | <b>Maximum<br/>Mark</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded<br/>2010</b> | <b>Mark<br/>Awarded<br/>2011</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50                      | 27                               | 27                               |
| The Built Environment          | 50                      | 27                               | 28                               |
| Landscaping                    | 50                      | 31                               | 31                               |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50                      | 27                               | 27                               |
| Litter Control                 | 50                      | 33                               | 34                               |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20                      | 7                                | 7                                |
| Tidiness                       | 30                      | 14                               | 14                               |
| Residential Areas              | 40                      | 25                               | 26                               |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50                      | 25                               | 25                               |
| General Impression             | 10                      | 7                                | 7                                |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>              | <b>223</b>                       | <b>226</b>                       |

### Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Scotstown to the National TidyTowns Competition 2011 and thank you for your entry form and map. We note that you do not seem to have developed a 3 or 5 year development plan; this was also mentioned in the adjudication report last year. The adjudicators strongly believe in the benefits of a simple plan. As stated in the TidyTowns Handbook, the cornerstone of the TidyTowns programme is the preparation of the plan by Groups outlining their actions and intentions for the forthcoming number of years. Many Groups base their plan on the competition entry form and the expansion of this with objectives and a timeframe for completion of tasks. This is something you could consider for next year. You continue to maintain a dedicated committee and enjoy community involvement during your annual Spring Clean event. Some groups are now also conducting an Autumn Clean-up which provides a further opportunity to get support from the wider community. We are pleased you receive enquires regarding the competition; hopefully those enquiring also do their part, or can be encouraged to get more involved. We liked your photos showing details of the successful poster competition with the school. We encourage you to continue to involve the school in your work and consider the possibility of the local children taking a more prominent role in Scotstown TidyTowns.

### The Built Environment:

We hope the Monaghan Fleadh Cheoil hosted in your village was a success and are sure there was fine traditional music, song, dance and the Irish language to be enjoyed. We did not get to visit the church on adjudication day as there was a very large funeral in progress here. Parking seems to be a bit of an issue on the Tydavnet Road on occasions such as a funeral. We note your graveyard audit has been conducted and you are currently awaiting the information board, hopefully this will be erected for the competition next year. The before and after photo of the graveyard wall clearly shows the improvement the new wall has made. Your treatment of the derelict house was noted positively on the Smithborough Road.

**Landscaping:**

It was good to see a local volunteer painting the seats on the village green on adjudication day – his efforts should be applauded. Your new blue glazed planters were admired for their colourful display on adjudication day.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It was wonderful to see children from the Tiny Tots playschool enjoying a wildlife outing to the Millennium Garden during our adjudication, well done to the playgroup leaders for utilising this wonderful amenity and allowing the children to get closer to nature. We would be interested to learn how you encourage wildlife, amenity walks and nature trails to the community. Consider organising a dawn chorus event or similar in consultation with a local wildlife ranger to further promote the Millennium Garden to your community. The adjudicator liked the way the Millennium Garden was not overly manicured, however we noticed a fallen tree in the garden, ensure this is properly cleared.

**Litter Control:**

Generally litter control in the village was good. There was no issue with litter outside the Chunky Chip this year on adjudication day, so well done on this improvement. There was a discarded cardboard box noted at the Bring Bank facility so ensure that this area is covered in your litter patrols.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Unfortunately you did not supply details relating to projects carried out under the waste minimisation category this year. You may recall the waste pyramid on the TidyTowns entry form this year? Consider how your community manages its waste and aim your efforts towards reuse, minimisation and prevention. Your local Environmental Awareness Officer may be able to offer you advice. For example, do you segregate and recycle any of the litter collected? To assist you in your work programme next year further suggestions are being provided. Adjudicators like to see one of two waste minimisation projects every year. One idea is to register your TidyTowns Group to the Green-Home programme, if you are not already involved, and encourage households in the area to join. See [www.greenhome.ie](http://www.greenhome.ie) for more information. As suggested last year, consider running a waste awareness workshop in your village in association with the Environmental Awareness Officer. Getting the local school involved in relation to a waste minimisation or reuse project will also assist you in this category.

**Tidiness:**

Some houses and premises in the village centre have moss on the roofs and that should be cleaned off to enhance their appearance. In relation to weed control, the adjudicator would warn against the overuse of weed killer. Regular maintenance can reduce the need for weed-killer though this may be required in very exceptional circumstances. Many groups now use more environmentally friendly weed control methods. The finishing around the light standard at the pedestrian bridge could be tidied up.

**Residential Areas:**

We visited two housing estates on the Roslea Road, both well presented. Furthermore improvement work and replastering was ongoing to a property in the vicinity of the Square, which was already looking quite well. In general, residences appeared to be well presented and maintained to a high standard – well done.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

A lot of road resurfacing work had recently been completed in the village and on adjudication day a squad of workmen were busy tarring the road at the Square and out the Roslea Road. The adjudicator can consider the completed roads next year once all the work is finished with line markings etc.

**General Impression:**

Your presentation of the village is to be applauded. On adjudication day your village was a hive of activity. The adjudicator hopes that you will find some of the suggestions helpful for your year ahead. In particular, you need to work on the waste minimisation category as you have enormous potential to gain marks in this category. Furthermore the drafting of a simple multi-annual plan with projects and timescales under each competition category will also help you progress further. The adjudicator wishes you well for the year ahead.