

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLASLOUGH**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	19	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	30
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	247	240

Glaslough, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed application form and map, they were helpful. This adjudicator would like to have seen a copy of the committees working plan to assess your current objectives under each heading and to generally set the scene. The committee's application and commitment to their lovely village and continued working relationship with so many local bodies are commendable. I hope you achieve an acceptable resolution to the housing issue.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Glaslough has many fine buildings reflecting its heritage, all contributing to an inviting and pleasant village setting. There are many fine buildings throughout the village some with original features, windows and attractive flowers. The Acorn Centre looked well as did the adjoining busy and attractive play area with its bi-lingual signs. Trinity House caught the eye with its original sash windows and window boxes. The new Bus stop looks very well though the adjoining phone box needs its paint-work refreshed. The Coach House needs to pay some attention to the upper windows and paint-work on this focal building. The new railings at the school look well, as did the Church and the other beautiful and peaceful tree lined graveyard.

LANDSCAPING

The village is fortunate to have some lovely individual features, all looking well in the standard black and gold livery, these combined with the fine stone walls and tidy green areas enhance the overall impression of the village. The pumps and water feature looked very well however some benches need their paint-work refreshed. Some colourful flowerbeds were noted in Tullytree and it would be good to see these beds developed to include some planting that would provide colour and content all year round. The small saplings in the green area here need to be staked properly if you intend to let them grow. The Gazebo and tree feature are both lovely features that can be used and enjoyed respectively.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The committee have an important role in preserving and suitably enhancing the natural environment within the village. Consider involving the school children, the future beneficiaries, and the school, with its generous grounds in your plans. Get appropriate help and advice from local experts. Open areas, wild flower meadows, water features and trees are example of areas that could be appropriately enhanced and preserved. Similarly hedgerows are a very important source of berries and nesting sites. This adjudicator was concerned to see a hedgecutter facing an already tidy hedge on one approach road on the day of adjudication. Perhaps the committee should consult the

Tidy Towns Handbook (page 110) or the ENFO handout regarding the care of hedgerows and their contribution to conserving wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

The village area itself was almost litter free, with some well placed and maintained bins. There was some litter in the green area of Ard Banagher Estate ; this area also needs a bin. The bin at the Orange Hall needs a liner, as litter is scattering out of it. Close by, in one of those difficult spots, there was also some litter behind the wall along the roadside. Your clean-up weekends are an effective way of highlighting litter awareness to the wider community.

TIDINESS

The overall first impression of the village is one of tidiness and this is indeed a testament to the hard work of the committee and residents. However a very visible and untidy area in the car park adjoining the Coach House was noted. Similarly, the area opposite with a good screening gate, has a very untidy back yard visible from the path though some development is planned here. The open area at the back of the main street has improved but there is still further opportunity for some suitable screening or gates in this area.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses on the approach roads, in the village and estates, were well maintained and presented. Some lovely individual gardens, tidy boundaries, and attractive flower features were noted all further enhancing the village landscape. Well done to all for their hard work. In Ard Banagher, the sympathetic style of the new houses and stepped access looked well, as will the green area, with its perennial planting and trees, when it is fully finished.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads create the first impression of any town or village and Glaslough has worked hard to create a pleasant first impression. This is particularly obvious looking at the restoration work completed on the walls since my last visit. Combined with the trees, hedges and tidy grass verges, they all presented a welcoming entrance to the village. Signposts, and footpaths were generally good and though there is a mixed standard of road surfaces both on the approach roads and in the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The whole presentation of the village reflects the enthusiastic interest residents have in appropriately enhancing and preserving Glaslough and its unique village character.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (10/8/2002)

Glaslough looked well for second adjudication also. Neatly trimmed grass verges and well managed hedgerow combined with elegant stands of mature trees are a characteristic feature of the village. Handsome stone walls, many of which are clothed in ivy complete the picture. Residential developments were admired particularly the Tullyree estate. Greens within estates are being well maintained. A colour scheme might be considered for the village centre. Local walks could be identified and developed to Slí na Sláinte standards with viewing amenity areas where possible.