

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough**

Ref: **473**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date: **07/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	42
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	15
Litter Control	40	35	30
Tidiness	20	18	19
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	248	247

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form and map. They set the scene for the adjudication. As part of this section of the competition, the committee is requested to submit a 3/5 year concise working plan. Using the competition headings, the committee could outline clear achievable objectives that would help focus the work of the committee and allow both you and the adjudicator to measure your progress. The hard work, fund raising and committed interest of the committee, along with your working relationships with local bodies and the school is praiseworthy. It is important now to produce the plan and use it effectively as a working document.

The Built Environment:

The committee recognises all the unique and focal features that contribute to Glaslough's fine village environment. The Information Guide in the village highlighted further features for this adjudicator on this visit. Many of the original buildings throughout the village were well presented, with some attractive floral features and original features maintained. The Acorn Centre along with the busy playground looked very well and are a great asset to the community. The school, monument, church and beautiful graveyard also all looked well. The old laundry buildings are now almost completely overgrown and are worth considering for some cosmetic attention. The village should consider last year's comments re: a colour scheme for the village as it would further enhance or brighten the stone buildings in the village.

Landscaping:

The attractive multi-lingual signs were the first feature to catch the eye as you approach the village. The fine stone walls, tidy green areas, pumps and other individual features all contribute to enhancing the village. The landscaping at Tullytree looks well. A bench here needs to be repaired and similarly a bench in Ardbanagher needs to be repainted. Hopefully the central bed in this estate will be finished soon. I assume I visited before the hanging baskets filled the empty holders, but the other flower features were noted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have not mentioned any plans in this important area on your application form. The committee have yet to acknowledge the important contribution they can make to recognise, suitably enhance and preserve the natural habitat of the village. The village is full of lovely and varied mature trees, fine hedgerows, varied bird life and wild grass areas. All the gardens around the old railway stations were full of rabbits, who have greatly increased in number. Consider consulting with some local experts and start an awareness project in the school. Last years adjudication suggested a Sli na Slante route, this could be combined with a nature trail and appropriate signs, highlighting the features in the village.

Litter Control:

The School Litter Warden Patrols are a practical and effective idea. There are plenty of well maintained bins and the new liner at the Orange Hall was noted. There was also a reduction in the amount of litter behind the adjoining wall. There was a lot of scattered litter behind the ornate railings on the main street, behind the monument, along the lower street, and in the car park at the restaurant going into Castle Leslie. The committee must remain vigilant in this important area of the competition.

Tidiness:

Once again, the first impression of the village is that of a tidy presentation. However, all the very visible areas highlighted last year still need attention. The car park adjoining the Coach House, the open back area opposite with the good screening gate, the open green area in Ard Banagher and the laundry buildings all need attention. The telephone box still needs to be refurbished.

Residential Areas:

In a small village, every individual home contributes to the overall impression of the village. The majority of homes throughout the village were well maintained and presented. Some lovely gardens, lawns, hedges and flower features were noted - well done to all concerned and particularly those who maintain outside their own boundaries. The considerate design of the new houses and smart steps and flowers also caught the eye again this year.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads with their fine stone walls, appropriately tidy hedges and verges all present an impressive first impression of Glaslough. There are a few open and exposed back yards that could do with a tidy or an effective screening gate or hedge. There remains a mixed standard of road surface in the village but footpaths, walls and signs were in good order.

General Impression:

Glaslough is a pleasant village maintained with pride and enthusiasm by the whole community.

Second Round Adjudication:

Perhaps this committee allowed the work to lapse slightly in the earlier part of the year, for the first adjudicator found less attention to detail than heretofore, noting, for example, the unusually late provision of flowering baskets. By early August the work seemed to have caught up with the standard of last year, but no more. Litter control had improved greatly between the first visit and the second. Wild Life and Natural Amenities was the main loser. The total, however, remains remarkably high, especially so under Landscaping and Residential Areas, which are among the best in the country. Congratulations on this achievement.