

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough**

Ref: **537**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **250**

Category: **B**

Date: **30/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>248</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The material presented with the entry form was very helpful in giving a good profile of Glaslough and the many features that form part of this fine village. The plan for the next three years gives a good focus on the future plans for the village and acts as a guide to the expectations. A more comprehensive plan would be even more helpful as each item could be listed with details as to when, by whom and what exactly is planned year by year. This would then become a yardstick for assessing progress each year and could be adapted as times goes by. It is good to see in the plan that many items refer to improvements in the landscape section – while there is already a beautiful landscape within Glaslough it is wise to have an eye to the residential areas in this regard.

### The Built Environment:

The village has a great asset in the magnificent stone features throughout. The fine walls and stone buildings make this an unique place. The wall of Leslie Castle in itself is a terrific feature and forms the backbone of the built environment in the village. The school is well kept – it would be good if some additional feature using stone could be incorporated into this school building to tie it into the village – especially since it appears isolated and away from the village – perhaps stone facing of the exterior wall or some gesture towards stone inclusion could be designed. The monument looks well and forms a focal point in the village. The railway station forms an important building within the village and its preservation and presentation is valuable. The Acorn Centre and the buildings surrounding the Coach House are well presented. The telephone kiosk needs urgent attention and

this is mentioned in the plan. The shelters both near the monument and at the Tullyree estate are attractive features. Gates within the village make a good feature – although the gates to the railway station need a little attention. The stone wall façade entrance to the small housing estate and further to the Ardbanagher estate is a nice feature. The Leslie Castle itself is a great asset and confers a great aspect on the village. The building of the proposed four town houses opposite the Coach House will create a new aspect to the village centre and careful planning, use of appropriate building materials and landscaping will be needed – perhaps the committee could keep an eye to this.

### **Landscaping:**

The formula of trees – Sycamore, Ash, Chestnut, Lime and Beech together with well-grassed verges, buttercups and thorn hedges is a magical formula and would be difficult to surpass. These landscape features predominate the village and giving a magnificent green mantle to the entire area. The footpath through the grass verge towards the school forms a lovely picture. New tree planting must always be kept in mind as our predecessors who could never have hoped to see them to maturity planted the trees currently being enjoyed by us. We owe a similar legacy to future generations. Tree planting could be considered at the back of the school football pitch boundary. Gardens are very well maintained and contribute well to the overall landscape of the village. The Tullyree housing estate is looking particularly well with good grass care and nicely planted ornamental plants giving an attractive road frontage as well as providing a pleasant environment for the estate. The landscaping at the Ardbanagher estate needs further refinement to bring it to the full potential. There has been a considerable amount of planting in the estate – this all needs to be maintained and nurtured to make the best of it. The grassed areas – the green is very raw at present and remedial action is called for. The entrance is attractive.

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

With the great amount of tree, hedge and grass cover in the area this presents a great opportunity for wild life. The railway station is beautifully covered with buttercups, wild parsley and forget-me-nots and the thorn hedges are in flower. This in itself makes a fine nature reserve together with the multitude of rabbits. In your plan there is mention of making people aware of wildlife – this is purposed by erecting signs and having bird tables. A good effort should be made in this direction, as the awareness of the environment is the key to its preservation. Young people in particular often miss so much by the lack of awareness and they then will not be in a position to pass local information onto future generations.

### **Litter Control:**

Generally there is a good standard of litter control in the area. Litter was spotted in a number of places – along the main street, by the steps leading to the Ardbanagher estate and also in the water trough at the monument. A consistent effort is needed to remedy the litter problem. If litter is present on a quiet Sunday morning – how more difficult it would be to control it when visitors arrive at busier times. The recycling bins introduced at Oakland centre car park are a great idea and focus peoples minds on the need for recycling.

### **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy appearance around the village. Some attention to the seating in some instances would be helpful. At the school there are a number of green bags by the school wall. Attention to the area by the carpark of the Coach House would be helpful. The Ardbanagher estate could be tidied up a little – particularly on the green areas.

### **Residential Areas:**

The Two estates as mentioned above form the main housing of the area. The remarks above are valid here. The houses are well maintained. In the case of Tullyree – this is exposed to the roadside

and contributes well along that roadside. Planted Containers sitting on grass verges sometimes can look a little fussy. The Ardbanagher estate is more enclosed and the entrance walls give a good impression. Individual houses in and around the village play a major part in the presentation of the village. The many stonewall and thorn hedges are a wonderful asset and these gardens contribute greatly.

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

Approach roads are well tended and as stated above the lovely formula of hedges and walls contributes well. The grass verges within the village are meticulously maintained with strimming or herbicide used along where the verge meets the wall – giving a very cared for appearance. Footpaths are well constructed in the village and the long path with grass lined to either side towards the school is lovely. It is good to see so much natural vegetation in the verges and hedges on approach roads.

### **General Impression:**

Glaslough is a lovely village to visit and the green mantle covering the village makes it a calm and tranquil place. The fabric of the village with its stone backbone forms the basis of its structure. Developments over the years must be carefully planned to retain the quality of the village

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The grass verges on approach roads to Glaslough were generally well maintained. However, some papers were evident in some locations! The charming school was admired for its simple presentation. Signage was noted and admired for its consistent standard, such as that for the housing estates and the cheerful welcome signs on approach roads. The Recreational Centre was well maintained as was Archway Antiques and the Coach House-although signage to the latter will need some attention before next year as it appeared quite flaky and faded. The downpipes to the stone building at the entrance to Castle Leslie appeared quite rusty. In terms of residential areas, the attractive box hedging and roses to a house in the centre of the village was admired as were the attractive stone cottages throughout. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the phone box had been painted since First Adjudication!