

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough**

Ref: **451**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **251**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	251	250

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Glaslough, a village that he had been hearing about for over twenty years since the village was the National Tidy Towns winner in 1978. It was indeed a most enjoyable visit. The profile document and detailed village map were of great assistance on adjudication day. It was good to see that after more than a quarter of a century Glaslough still promotes such extremely high environmental standards.

The adjudicator noted that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. Therefore it was not possible to put this year's work in the context of future Tidy Towns plans.

All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects.

The Built Environment:

The two visiting chip vans on adjudication day did not fit with the atmosphere or ethos of Glaslough. On a more positive note, the adjudicator would like to congratulate St. Marys National School on their great achievement of Green Flag Status. The built environment in Glaslough is so unusual in that it preserves so much of what was good in an estate village of former years. The fine stone walls here and stone buildings are the signature architectural features of the village. The adjudicator was of the view that a little colour might be added to the area of the monument through carefully placed flower tubs - just perhaps two only. Indeed flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes have not been over used in Glaslough and that is admired by the adjudicator. There is a tendency in some towns and villages to make these features an end in themselves rather than as something that can add colour where needed. Hopefully the restoration of the Hunting Lodge at the top of the street will be a possibility at some time in the future. The presentation of the Oakland Recreation Centre was excellent apart from the Bring Centre area.

The old poultry rearing premises (?) should be screened from public view and screening using garden slatted fencing about two metres high is suggested. The trailer in the small gap just down the road from the above premises should be removed, unless it just happened to be parked there on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

The landscaping in Glaslough is perhaps a little understood but the adjudicator is in agreement with that approach. The landscaped areas were excellently presented and the two new additional areas also looked very neat and tidy. The tiered landscaped area at the Caledon road junction also caught the eye, and the design approach here is imaginative.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The documentation did not make it clear exactly how far you have progressed in turning your attention to the issues surrounding wildlife. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different times of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools

there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

Litter Control:

Litter control was generally very good on adjudication day, but the presentation of the Bring Centre brought a lot of the adjudicator's expectations to earth rather quickly (see next section on Tidiness). In terms of litter control you have kept up your high standards and are to be congratulated on that. The involvement of the schools in this issue is welcomed. Some litter was noted at the Ard Banagher estate

Tidiness:

The presentation of the Bring Centre was among the worst that your adjudicator saw anywhere this year. Most of the individual units were full to overflowing and the area in front of the centre had dozens of bottles on the ground. Is there a possibility of having an emergency bin that could be used for a day or so pending the emptying of the existing facility? What a pity that this situation can happen in such a beautiful village.

The old poultry (/) rearing premises and the nearby trailer have been mentioned above.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of the Ard Banagher estate appears to have improved this year. The grass areas at the entrance and the colourful landscaped area inside the entrance area were admired. The estate itself in design terms is rather grey and not encouraging of excellence in presentation. Grass at kerbs was a problem here.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Glaslough were as usually superbly presented on adjudication day with one exception. One of the key features of Glaslough is how far out the verge presentation is taken. These well presented approach roads set up an anticipation of continued excellence in the village itself, and of course these expectations were generally met in full. On the Celedon approach road weed growth at kerbing was noted. New grass had been planted on the right hand verge area and the grass on the left hand side had not been cut for a little time.

General Impression:

Second Round Adjudication: