

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Glaslough** Ref: **609**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **272**
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	272

Overall Development Approach:

It was very interesting for this adjudicator to see Glaslough for the first time since the village won the Landscaping award four or five years ago; the changes were quite remarkable - the overall sense of enterprise rather than the negative aspect of the same was to the fore. Your own approach has changed too, almost imperceptibly, keeping up with the times; yet the sensitive attitude to the place and its environs remains completely intact. This is admirable. Questions that will have to be asked and answered by the Development Association (though only marginally in connection with this competition) concern the imminent population rise following the occupation of seventy-four new houses: is the servicing structure - shops, etc - extensive enough to cope or will new residents have to travel outside the village for their supplies?, will there be sufficient places in the schools?, will public transport increase or will more people be forced into the car culture? Also, there were quite a number of visitors walking the streets on the sunny July day: apart from the obvious attractions for those who stay or dine at Castle Leslie, are there sufficient facilities for casual visitors? - one might have expected to see tables with umbrellas outside the pub, or a centre for local crafts, for example. Thank you for the succinct and useful information enclosed, and for your informative map.

The Built Environment:

The scaffolding on so many of the older buildings and the construction work in progress on the new housing development immediately caught the eye. (The latter will be treated under Residential, below.) It was very good to see the fine Victorian lodges in process of rehabilitation: this work is of major importance but can not be the subject of a rise in marking until completed. St Salvador's picturesque tower in its sylvan setting, further afield the beautifully presented St Mary's and even further the exceptionally well kept Presbyterian church at Glenan form an interesting architectural as well as denominational contrast. The architectural centrepiece of the village, the memorial to Charles Powell Leslie, was as usual kept in splendid fashion: a monument that treads a subtle line between solemnity and levity. All these have been favourably noticed before. The Oakland

Recreation Centre, a building of utility rather than beauty, was well maintained and surrounded with pleasant planting. Some buildings between the Castle Leslie gates and Ardbanagher needed some remedial attention. It appeared that restoration work was in progress at the gates on the Caledon road.

Landscaping:

Glaslough has always been noted for its trim roadside verges, neat hedge-clipping in the suburban area, spacious lawns and colourful flowerbeds, the whole interspersed with bright window-boxes and tubs and elegant hanging baskets. (At Tullyree, hanging baskets were in need of watering at the time of the visit.) It was well up to its own standard again this year, a real feat in a competition where standards are rising all the time. At Oaklands, the children's playground was well-equipped and colourful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild life interpretative sign was favourably noted. It was encouraging to read that schoolchildren take an active interest in this subject - it is a difficult category to assess as so much is of its nature 'hidden' so the more information you give about your activities the better. (Will the nature trail taken in part of the old GNR railway track, one wonders?)

Litter Control:

Again, it was encouraging to read that children from the two schools take part in litter-collection and are suitably rewarded. Litter control was, if anything, improved on previous years. Congratulations to the entire community.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a slightly higher than average mark in the first year of this new category - a category that will increase in importance over the years. Your bring-bank was exceptionally well maintained. It was good to learn that the recycling facilities at Castle Leslie are available to the village. Next year, please state briefly what further action has been taken.

Tidiness:

Perhaps hedging in some areas - such as the Barrack Hill and Caledon roads - was perhaps not quite as crisp as heretofore in mid-July. The corrugated roof of a long building in the former area needed attention, and you have yourselves mentioned that the somewhat destitute chicken hatchery as being in need of attention. These are relatively minor matters in a village that is generally tidy.

Residential Areas:

There seems to be no diminution in the manner in which the older housing stock of the village is maintained. Some of the original cottages and houses seemed to have been improved. The twin set of new semi-detached houses opposite the pub were seen to be in keeping. The estate at Ardbanagher looked very smart indeed, down to the smallest details. The large estate at Tullyree was well kept, especially in regard to its open spaces - just beware of over-prettification here! The discreet mix of plain retro-Georgian and retro-Victorian terrace houses at present under construction, linking with village buildings of those eras and still to be completed, seems to be the ideal solution for new housing design in Glaslough. This scheme will undoubtedly be sneered at by purists as 'pastiche', but if so, pastiche has been the right choice. The proportions and materials show first class research into the domestic styles of (mainly) the first half of the 19c, and it is certain that within a very few years, with proper attention to planting, they will merge convincingly into the local scene. It is hoped that the majority of houses will be year-round residential, because there have been real social problems in other centres with homes that are vacant for the greater part of the year. The completion of this neighbourhood will be greatly looked forward to.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were good, and paving excellent to good. Lighting standards, bollards and other street furniture were of good design and well maintained. (It is hoped that street lamps will be in keeping with the new development.)

General Impression:

It was quite exciting to visit Glaslough and to observe how new developments were going hand-in-hand with traditional practice and custom. Every good wish for your most worthwhile endeavours.

