

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **STRADBALLY-WATERFORD**  
County : **WATERFORD**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22
Landscaping	40	33
The Built Environment	40	31
Litter Control	40	34
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Stradbally, the 1995 South East Regional Award Winner, has adapted well to the change in emphasis in the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the map and the comprehensively completed entry form - both of which were useful on the day of adjudication.

As usual, Stradbally was a delight to visit and the general presentation was of a very high order.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Strand and the River represent substantial assets and contribute greatly to the totality of Stradbally. The road to Ballybooly Beach has also a delightful, rural feel. The stream and trees on the approach from Dungarvan similarly give a lovely sense of enclosure as you climb the hill. The floral displays leading to the ancient Church of Ireland grounds and the grounds themselves, were very well presented.

### LANDSCAPING

We allowed fully, on the day of adjudication, for the inevitable disruption occasioned by the new street lighting being installed. The central Green was, as usual, immaculate and featured superb floral displays. The many hanging baskets and particularly the 3-pronged, free standing hanging basket "trees" are excellent.

With the heightened emphasis on the environment, the Committee should explore ground planting rather than the use of flower tubs for floral displays. The display of planting at "Kismith" on Church Lane was a delight. The work in progress on the refurbishment of the random rubble wall on Ballybooly Beach road is commended.

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT

While Stradbally has its fair share of individually significant buildings, it is the collective streetscape which is such a joy. Individual houses, painted and adorned with window boxes and hanging baskets, project a delightful air. The Holy Cross Church and nearby Pierce Barron (1806) School were very well presented. The Post Office was most attractive as was the delightful Church of Ireland National School which featured a very fine display of flowers and was totally litter-free. The small thatch cottage in this area was also very pleasantly presented. "Whelan's Bar" featured colourful hanging baskets and was also well painted. Comments which apply in equal measure to Tom Condon's Shop on Church Lane. While the Toilets were freshly painted it is sad to note the amount of vandalism to which they have been subjected.

### LITTER CONTROL

Despite 4 large litter bins at the Cove some litter was noted in this area and also around the public Toilets. The Green and the core of the village was free of litter. Minor amounts noted in the Library/Viewmount corner.

### TIDINESS

We confirm that we allowed fully for disruption occasioned by the installation of the new street lighting. Signage needed a little attention. The Cove sign was missing altogether and one sign in the centre had been turned in the wrong direction. Signposts need painting or washing. There was some spoil on the sides of roads. The area outside the GAA grounds could, with advantage, be treated with suitable surface dressing up to the roadside walls. The present gap, between surfaced area and the wall could become unsightly.

Stradbally exudes a delightful vibrancy, untroubled by artificial or inappropriate "prettiness". It is a tidy, neat and well presented village.

#### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The high standard of the core village is reflected suitably in the residential areas. Viewmount and Rockville particularly were very well presented, with both individual gardens and communal grassed areas being a delight. Individual houses on the Kilmacthomas road and on the Ballybooly Cove road were well presented. Perhaps additional planting could be recommended in respect of some houses on the latter. The housing stock on Church Lane and especially the thatched cottage were a delight. The individual houses around the Green are the highlight of the centre.

#### ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Speed limit signs were well presented and hedges were suitably cut back for a rural setting. We have referred to some spoil on the sides of roads. The Kilmacthomas entrance road had the grass appropriately cut back and featured the splendid 3-pronged hanging basket "trees". On the small side road to Monavaud the presentation of the random rubble walls and the planting on top of same were a joy. Stradbally is a delightful village and all of the approach roads were presented in a manner which made them a most agreeable prelude to the village itself.

#### GENERAL IMPRESSION

Few centres exude the same sense of order, colour and cohesion as is to be enjoyed in Stradbally. From the central Green the delightfully presented Church Lane, the approach roads and the residential areas all contribute to a splendid high presentation standard.

Compliments are extended to the Members of the Committee, to the Community at large and all who have contributed to this splendid presentation.

#### SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/96)

Flowers were pre-eminent in the overall picture of Stradbally on second adjudication day. The handsome new paving, the smooth new road surfacing, as well as the superb new lighting standards, have enhanced the village centre tremendously. There was no discernable litter at the places mentioned by the first adjudicator and little elsewhere, which is a real achievement considering the holiday weekend.