

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TRAMORE**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20
Landscaping	40	28
The Built Environment	40	29
Litter Control	40	30
Tidiness	20	16
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the Tramore street map suitable annotated and the fully completed entry form.

The new format of the Tidy Towns Competition invites Committees to assess their centre from a number of standpoints and to develop, over the next months, a programme of works which they would aspire to implement, on a phased basis, over the next number of years. Because of the size of the centre and the enormous numbers of visitors it attracts, clearly, litter management itself will tax the resources of the Committee and its supporters.

There is a particular difficulty noticed in several locations where the road coverage does not extend to join the sidewall, ditch or pavement, leaving a sizable gap which inevitably becomes a receptacle for weeds and other spoil. This problem might be discussed with the Local Authority to see, where possible, what improvements could be put in place over a period of time.

Few devices provide the same amount of colour and movement or are as inherently desirable as well maintained flags. A number of buildings notably, the Garda Station, the Church and others are equipped with flagpoles but none were actually flying flags on the day of adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Being a seaside location wildlife might be too readily associated with sea and seabirds. Additional wildlife and birds could, with the enhancement of appropriate habitats, be attracted to the centre thus strengthening its natural appeal.

The centre enjoys considerable amenity. The tree-shaded approach road to Summer Cove is a delight for example. The treatment of the main approach road to the Promenade is a distinct improvement. The changed road surface and the well painted bollards might encourage the greater pedestrianising of this area.

The GAA grounds were well presented although there were some weeds and growth at the base of wall. The Race Course suffered similarly and the signage here was poor and needs attention. Generally speaking the caravan parks would benefit from additional screening.

LANDSCAPING

Tramore Golf Course entrance was very well presented. The fine floral and tree planting at the L&N entrance was a delight. The Roman Catholic Church looked very well with low level stone walls and appropriate planting. The Promenade area was well presented, litter-free and looked fresh and inviting. There is however some minor unraveling of the wall which merits early attention. Some incidental grassed areas were very well presented although, more fulsome planting is necessary for the roadside garden beside the County Council offices. The same applies to the planting at the top of Gallowey's Hill. The large ESB station above the Cemetery requires appropriate screening.

The major challenge under "Landscaping" is the treatment of the Back Strand area. The waste disposal signage and general presentation is very poor. Thistle infestation and the badly broken up surface dressing allied to disfigured and untidy signage all contribute to give this whole area a shabby, drab and uninviting air. Urgent discussions with the County Council and other interested parties are needed to tackle this difficult and protracted problem. The unscreened high chain-link-fencing on the approach to the area in respect of the caravan & camping park requires screening. The treatment of the amenity area behind the Promenade is proving to be quite successful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Those buildings which collectively might be described as the "Amusements Centres" were, in general, well presented, freshly painted and appealing. McCormack's looked well.

Misty's Restaurant featured good and bright colours and was very clean and inviting. Good floral displays was a feature of Emo's Cafe. The Public Toilets and area were well presented.

At the other end of the Promenade, the former Life Boat House looked decrepit.

Cunningham's Fast Food centre was very attractive, delightfully clean and well presented, featuring flower baskets and excellent signing. The Market Restaurant featured very fine signage. The large red brick Garda Station and entrance area were fine but the area beyond the entrance appeared very untidy. The Public Library and nearby red fronted building were an attractive cameo. Crobally House and grounds were very neatly presented. The Bank of Ireland, the Post Offices and the schools on Convent Hill were bright, colourful and uniformly well presented.

The Ritz Bar and O'Neills Bar looked very well and were litter-free on the day of adjudication.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter management programme which is necessary in such a busy resort was coping moderately well on the day of adjudication. Quite an amount of litter was noted on the Cliff Road notably at the town end of this heavily used thoroughfare. The Dungarvan road was also somewhat disfigured. The sensible and sizable litter bins in blue and white at the beach were fine and there was a good supply of them. The signage inviting visitors to bring home their litter at Summer Cove, etc is a good idea and may help to remind people of their individual responsibilities.

TIDINESS

With the exception of the Back Strand area already referred to, Tramore projects a very agreeable air to its many visitors. Many individual premises and locations contribute to this while others may, unwittingly, detract from it.

Signage at the Railway Square and towards the Promenade is very fine. The ESSO Garage on the Waterford road was delightfully presented and was flying a number of flags. Newtown Cove Caravan Park entrance area was a delight but do cut the grass back a little along the roadside. The Golf Practice Range entrance by contrast was very weed invested.

Some signage was disappointing. The sign for Newtown Cove and Guillamerne Swimming Club was very battered. The signage on Bel Air Guesthouse, Tramore Holiday Villas, and Atlantic View Caravan Park, all require urgent refurbishing. Tramore Garages projected a very agreeable air of order while the entrance to Tramore Holiday Villas was very good and the spoil had been removed.

The very large grassed areas between Waterford road and the Promenade were well cut and presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Very largely the residential stock of Tramore is presented well with careful attention to house painting and featuring many excellent individual garden displays. Litter management generally throughout the estates was very good. Kilfarassy road and Seafield Estate were particularly striking. The houses in Newtown Rise cul-de-sac had quite an amount of weeds at the base of their front-facing walls. Newtown Hill luxury detached homes were very fine while Elm Park, Rose Lawn and Tramore Heights all contributed to a general high level of presentation. St. Otteran's Terrace was similarly litter-free and Sweetbriar Park had many well presented individual gardens while its communal grassed areas and lawns were neat and orderly.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Major work is in progress on the main Waterford approach road which when completed will give an imposing and welcoming introduction to this important resort. The picnic area on the left is an agreeable facility. The town nameplate here should be replaced as it is badly disfigured. Rely on the "Welcome to Tramore" sign instead. The planting of trees on both sides on the approach to the roundabout are excellent and as they reach maturity will contribute substantially to a pleasant entrance. The major roundabout still being completed is a huge advantage. It is disappointing to note the amount of litter flung onto it presumably from passing motor cars. The Dungarvan route does not have a town nameplate and the road sign is graffitied on this approach. The hedgerows and verges were appropriately cut back. There are a total of 13 signs at the Newtown Cove/Dungarvan intersection, a number of which might, with advantage, be rationalised. The hedges were appropriately cut back on the Kilfarassy road.

The Coast road and Summer Cove road to Tramore proper was disfigured by an amount of weed between the road and pathway. The 30 mph signage, especially the poles for them, needed repainting. Grass verges were not at all cut back on this road. Priests' road signage on the traffic island was good, and tree planting on this road is excellent. The phased introduction of kerbstones on the route from the Waterford road roundabout to the Back Strand area to define road edges is recommended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Tramore is a very busy resort with its appeal centred on the beach and related activities. It requires a concerted programme on all signage. The main resort areas are very well presented, are bright, colourful and lively. There is a major blackspot and difficulty at the Back Strand area which is currently materially below par.