

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ANNESTOWN**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	--
The Built Environment	40	28	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	189	--

Annestown, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form, map, copy of the development plan and welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition after an absence of 25 years approximately. One does look forward to seeing you continuing to enter the Competition in future years and making good progress in it. It is wonderful to see that you have the support of the local community and that your fund-raising is successful. It is also good to see that you are co-operating with the agencies such as the Waterford County Council, FAS, the ESB, and Waterford LEADER. Perhaps you might also liaise with the Regional Tourism Authority, Telecom Eireann and the National Rehabilitation Board, who will all have valuable advice to give you. All Tidy Towns Committees are now required to produce a plan which will guide their activities for a 3 to 5 year period. The most important thing to remember is to keep your plan short and simple. Look on it as a guide for your Committee and as something which can be built on over the coming years. Much of the expertise needed will be found in your own Committee and any further advice you might need will often be found in the wider community. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives - a limited number of targets which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results. Perhaps you may be able to get some more people to help with the six persons you already have on your Committee so that you can spread the workload. We wish you every success with your endeavours for your village and the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Annestown is a delightful village and is most unusual in having little or no commercial properties in the village. For instance there is no pub or shops. You do for the most part understand and respect the character of your village, its buildings and the craftsmanship which created them. By adopting this attitude you can ensure that the maintenance and improvement will strengthen the village essential character. The Church is well maintained as is the graveyard. The Bed & Breakfast and its entrance again looks very attractive and is well taken care of. The Pump, which is painted in a dark blue and white, is again, well looked after and has a nice tub of flowers.

LANDSCAPING

I note from your development plan that you intend to put in flowerbeds at the Annestown signs at both ends of the village and plant a suitable range of plants and shrubs. You

may have other opportunities and perhaps you might consider inside the wall at the beach or in the corners of the car park where you could plant suitable vegetation for a coastal beachside village. Perhaps when you have surveyed the village and its environs you might be able to select other suitable areas in which trees and shrubs could be planted. I would suggest that you look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which was sent out to your Committee this year. It has some useful information on landscape treatment on page 55.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have an ideal area to develop the wildlife and natural amenity habitats of your village and that is in the river and area; the wetlands again around the river are very suitable and provide an opportunity for enhancing and creating a nature area for the enjoyment of local people. As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting, enhancing and increasing the wildlife value of your community. Perhaps a good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats of the area and see what species of animals, birds and fish that these attract. If you need help in identifying local wildlife habitats or getting a project off the ground, why not ask your local environmental experts to get involved, advise you and provide you with the information you might require. Again there is also some useful information contained on this aspect of the Competition in the Tidy Towns Handbook on page 65.

LITTER CONTROL

The control of litter throughout the village and in the beach area on the day of adjudication was very good. The car park was almost litter-free and throughout the village it was very good as well, with just small pieces at the verges and near the Pump. I note that you are requesting more bins to be put down at the car park at the beach and perhaps you would also need a few more in the village in the right place and ensure the frequent emptying of same.

TIDINESS

Annestown was presented in a neat and tidy manner on adjudication day and the residents are to be congratulated on this. More care needs to be taken with the kerbs where there were some weeds observed in the village and also on the kerbsides on the bridge on both sides.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residents of the village have great pride in their homes and properties and they were all presented very well. There are no gardens in the front but they have overcome this with the clever use of climbing rose bushes and shrubs. Also

some properties have window boxes, hanging baskets and planters in front of their houses. It all creates a lovely and colourful look to the village. Again some of the colour schemes used on the properties do catch the eye and they are the houses which are painted pink and a deep blue. The threat to the character and tradition of the village could possibly come from the use of PVC windows and doors, etc. This can destroy the character of the houses and ultimately the whole street in the village. It is great to see the use of colour which enlivens all the buildings in the street, which by and large has been used to good affect throughout.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The car park at the beach was maintained in good condition, and was clean and tidy. The footpath from the bridge to the village does need replacing. Also the footpath in the village centre on the left hand side also needs attention. I note from the development plan that this is going to receive attention. Some of the signposts need replacing and in particular the 30 mph signs from the Dungarvan approach.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Annestown is a delightful village and no doubt the effort of the Tidy Towns Committee will do much to improve the presentation of it. The residents do take great pride in their environment and together with your Committee can only go from strength to strength in this Competition. I would suggest that you do something every year within your physical and financial resources. Well done to all concerned and we wish you every success with your plans in the years ahead.