Tidy Towns 2002

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ATHY**
County : **KILDARE**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	15	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	**300**	**207**	**201**

ATHY, Co. KILDARE

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Athy is welcome to the Tidy Towns competition of 2002. Thank you for your submitted plan and well done on your continued effort on behalf of the town. Your submitted map was very beneficial. You submitted some pictures with your plan – however they were untitled and not explained – perhaps you could forward your reasons for pictorial evidence being included whenever this is done. You have a difficult task considering the layout, geography and extensive use of the town. However evidence of a Tidy Towns Committee in Athy is apparent.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Court House Heritage Centre and Model School are particularly beautiful buildings. The mature trees at the back of the Court House add to the ambiance of both the Courthouse and the Canal. Whites Castle is an imposing feature and adds to the historical feel. It is easy to see why Athy is a Heritage Town. Some buildings are in need of repair along the main and side streets and every effort should be made to encourage shops and businesses to maintain their premises to the highest standards possible. The Church and surgery also deserve a mention, along with Cullitons Insurance. As mentioned the Leinster Arms is in need of attention, as is the Grove on the Kildare Road.

LANDSCAPING

You have done well to concentrate on selected areas and the results are very attractive. The assumption that something will eventually be done at the Church entrance to the riverbank. The planting of trees and shrubs on both sides of the bank is lovely. Large pole baskets are evident and complimented – however some are in need of tending. Landscaping on the approach roads is a welcoming feature. Some businesses have made a particular effort e.g. A.I.B. and Robert Redmond. There are many potential areas for landscaping e.g. the turn off the Kildare Rd to Kilkenny, The AFC & GAA Grounds. The landscaped area on the corner at the Stradbally road is a lovely feature but was in urgent need of weeding on the day of adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Barrow is a wonderful feature and amenity in Athy. The riverbank is no doubt a haven for many species. The seating areas along the bank surely encourage many people to enjoy the area. Bins, interpretative boards and the Slí Na Sláinte walk are all commendable. Perhaps a board indicating the presence of different species of wildlife and trees etc would be beneficial.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was very busy on the evening of adjudication and most areas were relatively free of litter. Around the riverbank however there was litter and also on Main Street. The adjudicator compliments the committee on your efforts to get as many people and groups involved as possible and encourage you to continue with this plan of action.

TIDINESS

The town is spread out and no doubt difficult to organise. You have made an excellent effort. Attention to details is necessary in order to improve the general tidiness of the area. This attention should be concentrated on weeding, litter and derelict/semi-derelict premises. The recycling area is complimented however the clothes bank detracts from an otherwise attractive area. The Health Centre and Statoil Garage on the Stradbally Rd were to be complimented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general houses are well maintained and attractive e.g. The Orchard and Park Avenue, White Castle Lawn and the houses across from the river on the Monasterevin Road. This is a lovely road with mature trees and the river. The derelict petrol pumps are a little unsightly though. The adjudicator found that quite a few residential areas did not have names at the entrance e.g. the estate on the Stradbally Road with a lovely green and a statue of St. Dominic – this estate was clean, tidy, beautifully landscaped and housed some lovely gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The immediate approach on the Kilkenny Road is attractive with a lovely flowerbed, and young trees. Quinn's is in need of some attention. The Carlow Road approach is also attractive with a very well maintained cottage on the hill and flowerbeds. The area around the railway line however was in need of attention. Some entrances to housing estates along this road have not been utilised.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Identify areas of extreme need and concentrate on nameplates and approach roads, businesses on Main Street and areas on the Stradbally road.