

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stradbally-Laois**

Ref: **176**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **212**

Category: **C**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	18	17
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	32
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry to the Tidy Towns 2003. Your list of projects listed in the Stradbally Tidy Towns Three Year Plan appears both practicable and in some cases exciting. The proposals for riverside amenity and silos development falls into the latter category and should be very interesting indeed. Stradbally is a most pleasant village and has much of interest particularly in its historic connections with 19th. century industrial architecture and machinery.

### The Built Environment:

The school is nicely presented. It is clean and tidy but the residue of weed killer was evident. The Garda Station looks quite well. Lawn is maintained, although there was a little weed showing in the path. It was noted that the derelict building beside the health centre is to be tidied. The Market House needs restoration and the adjacent public toilet should be removed. Again it was noted that plans are in hand to work on this over the coming three years and you are wished success in your Heritage Grant application in this regard. Both the RC Church and the Church of Ireland buildings and grounds are excellent. The Malt House is a fine example of a village renewal scheme. The small Methodist Church with its tidy frontage adds to Stradbally's peaceful atmosphere. The Courthouse Green is surrounded by some relatively new housing on its east side and 'old' world buildings on the west. At the top end is the courthouse which also houses the library. This is a fine building but is not well maintained. It is in need of painting. The garage beside the health board could be better presented.

## **Landscaping:**

Trees both right and left towards centre of village give a welcoming introduction to the village. The potted flowers at the base of the Church of Ireland wall along the main street add colour to the streetscape. The proposed redevelopment of the Market House, and riverside amenity will have a major impact on landscaping the village. Along the main street, trees are maturing well. There is a nice display of flowers at the Credit Union building, and a fine display of hanging flowers opposite the Vintage Inn.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The 2 acre fisheries lake is a fine amenity in Oakvale Woods. The development of disabled access and picnic facilities and the planned installation of a foot path with flower tubs is commended. It requires signposting. The new park which is at development stage behind the row of cottages, features a pond and will no doubt provide a delightful wild life habitat within the town.

## **Litter Control:**

Your plans for controlling litter and installation of covered bins are excellent. The experience during the day of inspection was generally good despite the ongoing battle with high levels of passing traffic.

## **Tidiness:**

There is some heavy wirescape particularly near the Garda station. A public information map is not on display. There continues to be a problem with the deteriorating house on the green. For various reasons the windows of the convent have been boarded up. Recycling banks are signposted and placed behind the Market House.

## **Residential Areas:**

Wood View estate looks fine with its grass area and delightful seating at the estate wall end. The parking of tractors and machinery should be discouraged. The new housing estate at the back of the Market House is excellent. It is clean and tidy and a credit to the village. Oaklands, is a nice small residential estate of semi detached bungalows. Residential housing in on the Athy approach has some fine gardens on display.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

There is a pleasant approach to Stradbally from the Portlaoise side, verges have been cut on one side and look well. The approach from the Carlow side is particularly attractive in that it gives a fine over view of the village against a backdrop of the Slieve Blooms. The approach from the Athy road is a little untidy with uncut verges and a broken boundary wall. The approach from Vicarstown shows the verges have been rough cut. From the 30mph sign no verge cutting has taken place. Public light fittings are of the heavy duty kind and for a village of its size more decorative lamp fittings are recommended. The main street surface is in need of attention. The entrance from the Timahoe Road is very attractive. There are fine old estate walls on either side.

## **General Impression:**

Stradbally is an attractive village with a remarkable industrial and cultural history. It has excellent potential to exploit both within the village and through its surrounding mountain, forest and water

areas.