

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniscrone**

Ref: **377**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **184**

Category: **B**

Date: **13/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	20
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	28	25
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>173</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

There has been very tangible progress in the past year. Congratulations to the committee, and to the residents and business people of Enniscrone. The simple list of projects which you intend to complete this year and over the next four years shows considerable thought and foresight and must serve to concentrate the minds of all concerned as much as it impressed the adjudicator. The suggestions which you make about the competition in Section D of the entry form will be raised at the adjudicators' meeting, but it would be helpful if you would also send them in a separate letter to the Tidy Towns Unit. (Incidentally, the competition's principal aim is towards tidiness all the year round; though judging takes place in June, experienced adjudicators can immediately appreciate what elements will look at their best in later - or indeed earlier - months.) Also, on your entry form next year can you please provide your exceptionally helpful map on one sheet of paper instead of three, as it is difficult to cope with documentation when walking through the town, especially in blustery weather!

### The Built Environment:

The principal public buildings were all looking spruce on the date of adjudication. The dominant church is exceptionally fine, with a beautifully presented forecourt; the cleaning or painting of the cross still needs to be undertaken, however. The Garda Station was very smart indeed. The apparently derelict church near the Ben Bulben Hotel does have a rather forbidding appearance. A building project in this neighbourhood looks promising and its completion will be looked forward to.

The Schools were also well presented. The Sea Water Bath House, for which Enniscrone is rightly famous and which this adjudicator had not seen since its revival, was indeed impressive: it is heartening to observe this kind of unique initiative. The Old Cliff Baths did not look nearly as unsightly as in the photograph provided - the white paint helps tremendously. The Water Point building is bright and inviting, and its immediate surroundings are attractive. Seafront buildings are unusually well maintained in comparison with some other popular resorts, and it was good to see that the amusements at Leisureland were neatly contained.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping on the spacious approaches from Sligo and Ballina gave a good initial impression of Enniscrone: a first impression is often the most lasting. The main street would greatly benefit from tree planting - a difficult and costly task, and anyway not on your list of priorities. The riverside area was looking well. Hedging along the wall at the caravan park was welcome. The raised bed at the church is a real success; other plantings (including tubs and hanging baskets) throughout the town and on the sea front and at the dunes, add tremendously to their respective locations. It is clear that the importance of shrubs rather than bedding plants is well understood for areas that are open to the elements.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

For a locality with such abundant opportunities for the encouragement and nurture of wild life, your entry form is surprisingly deficient. However, from what can be seen on a walk through Enniscrone, the ongoing maintenance of riversides, dunes, hedgerows is obviously an important part of your programme, and it is good to note that you intend to establish a wild life area at the deserted site on Main Street as a medium-term project. Although they are now said to be something of a cliché, there is actual value to be gained from the provision of an illustrated information board, showing the species of flora and fauna to be found in the district.

### **Litter Control:**

This work was impressive, especially taking into consideration the fact that yours is a holiday centre.

### **Tidiness:**

Two rather neglected areas in the neighbourhood of the large hotels unfortunately caught the eye - probably these are listed for improvement. Two unsightly small buildings, one near the seawater baths and another above the pier, need attention. A lane between Water Point and adjacent housing was very weedy on adjudication day. Otherwise, there is generally an uplifting feeling of a place well looked after.

### **Residential Areas:**

The older street houses are what gives the main street its real sense of character, and these are proudly maintained by their owners. Unusually fine individual homes were noted on the seafront. The lighthouse apartment building is an imaginative development which this adjudicator had not previously seen. A particularly nice little terrace of new houses next the Craft & Curio Shop was admired, though it does have a remarkably dull outlook at this car park. At Ard na Gréine, where there are fine shrubs, trees and rustic features, the grassed spaces were in real need of mowing on the date of adjudication, and there was considerable weed growth. The White Crest Village houses are interestingly designed, but the area is somewhat colourless: residents should be encouraged to plant flowering shrubs and creepers; many gable edges remained unpainted. New housing on a side road to the north-east of the town looks promising because of the use of gables and dormers: the developer should be urged to plant trees, if this has not already been done.

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

Most though not all surfaces are good. The new lighting standards are admirable: it would be good to see this scheme continued, as the wires and poles elsewhere combine to give an untidy effect. It is good to see extensive shrub planting in, at least, one car park. A sustaining wall appears to be collapsing onto the road between the pier and the baths. New roadside boundary walls here and there were admired.

### **General Impression:**

This has been an unusually satisfying visit for the adjudicator, especially as not having been in Enniscrone for several years. It is always encouraging to see imaginative initiatives leading to appreciable progress.