

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stradbally-Waterford**

Ref: **394**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **265**

Category: **B**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	37
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	265	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form. Congratulations to you in winning the Gold Medal in the Entente Florale 2002 and on the great honour it bestowed on Stradbally by the subsequent visit of the President of Ireland to celebrate the occasion. Your comprehensive plan has been read with interest and we wish you every success in its implementation. It is gratifying also to read that you continue to have the support of Waterford County Council, Fás, South East Tourism and many other agencies for your efforts. In pursuit of your ambition to attain regional / national success and at the level of the competition at which you presently operate, attention to detail will be all important together with careful planning. It is extremely difficult at the stage you are at to gain the necessary additional marks unless you embark on a major project and enhance even further what you already have.

The Built Environment:

As last year your public buildings were again very well presented and are being very well maintained. The GAA Centre has improved considerably since last year and the presentation of your Churches and Schools continues to play a major part in your Tidy Towns success. Both Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove were visited. In both cases they are being well maintained. Unfortunately the road to Stradbally Cove is in atrocious condition and badly needs resurfacing. Your internal and external signposting is being well maintained and the Stradbally history boards are a very nice idea. The Heritage Sundial, picnic table and heritage information panel (which were not

seen by this adjudicator last year) are exceptional and greatly enhance the village green. Cove Cottage continues to be a unique attraction. The appearance of the Handball Alley has improved considerably. The stone walls which are a feature of Stradbally are being very well maintained. However white walls in High Street need a coat of whitewash. A huge amount of house building activity is taking place and will be disruptive for a while. This however will pass and eventually Stradbally will benefit from these developments.

Landscaping:

Activity under this heading continues apace in Stradbally and what truly remarkable displays have been provided. So much so that it was difficult for the adjudicator to recognise what was new and what was old so all have been bulked together under the expression "magnificent". The Green area, the open spaces at High Street and indeed many other smaller open spaces were very nicely presented and reflect great credit on all concerned. Planting in the vicinity of the Handball Alley is now maturing very nicely and that whole area has improved tremendously in the last two years. New tree planting on the village green was also noted as was the transfer of the village pump. Your wonderful landscaping efforts well deserved the award of the Gold Medal in the Entente Florale. Congratulations to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading were noted and the wildlife audit should prove an interesting project. You mentioned the provision of information boards at both Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove. It would appear that they were not there on adjudication day so it is assumed that they will be subsequently provided. In addition perhaps you might consider doing something with your schools by way of a wildlife project e.g. the provision of nesting boxes, water and feeding points for birds etc. In the event consult with Duchas who have specialised knowledge of this subject.

Litter Control:

The entire village was practically litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations again to all concerned. This is a magnificent effort and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their environment.

Tidiness:

The untidiness associated with the building of the various new housing estates has been allowed for and hopefully most, if not all of this will have disappeared by next year. Otherwise the village was again very nicely presented. It was a joy to be there. There are not very many commercial premises in Stradbally but special mention is made of O' Cuirrin, Spar and Whelans. All looked extremely well.

Residential Areas:

All the existing and completed housing estates were visited and it is obvious from the way they are presented that local residents are very proud of their environment. The new housing estate across the road from the Handball Alley looks extremely well and their open spaces are being very well kept. Most houses were very nicely painted and some had lovely gardens which were in full bloom and added considerably to the overall ambience of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were again very nicely presented and in most cases verges had been cut. Road surfaces and paving are in good condition and are being well maintained which reflects greatly on Waterford County Council.

General Impression:

The village of Stradbally is indeed a gem and long may it remain so. Careful planning and attention to detail will gain extra marks over the next year or two and bring you the rewards which you justly deserve.

Second Round Adjudication:

Most of the village was again presented to an extraordinary high standard. Especially commended are all those residents who extend their effort to the roadside, the result being almost complete merging of public and private areas. The luxuriant hydrangeas were particularly admired. The simple yet most effective means of creating a Tidy Towns presence out the approach roads by way of cutting a neat strip along the road edge is commended. The fresh colourful paintwork complements beautifully the equally colourful planting. On the other hand at your level in the competition you must attend to any potential blemishes and consequently seemingly minor weedy areas, some poor field entrances, untidy yards and shabby walls must be systematically identified and dealt with. Completion of the thatched houses at Monavud cul-de-sac is looked forward to – at which time everywhere falling below the standard on this road should be up-graded. There is scope for further work to stone walls – some were becoming a little too overgrown. A little litter was noted behind the public toilets which indeed would benefit from some maintenance. The coves were being well enjoyed on this sweltering August afternoon!