

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tramore**

Ref: **142**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **226**

Category: **E**

Date: **10/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

The information supplied with your entry form would indicate that your Committee is quite active and you are to be complimented on the work which you are achieving with your Local Authority, your Schools and on the maintenance of the Grottos at Newtown and Riverstown and the rockery on Gallweys Hill all of which were seen on adjudication day. Your work on the Donerail is also to be commended. Your role as a watchdog and pressure group has also to be commended particularly in a town like Tramore which has expanded so rapidly in recent years. It is because of this however that it is again recommended that you consider drawing up a 3 to 5 year development plan so that, as a Committee, you can identify what your contribution to the overall Tidy Towns effort will be over that period working, of course, in conjunction with your local Authority and other state bodies. Perhaps you have already done so but it is suggested that you would identify interested participants and call a meeting of those together with your Regional Tourism Authority, your Local Authority, Fás, Duchas and any other agencies which you feel would be of benefit to you. This has been successfully done in other centres such as Dungarvan and Kilkenny.

The Built Environment:

Building continues apace in Tramore and this can be very disruptive but, when completed, will greatly enhance the town and its environs. Public buildings again this year are being very well maintained including both Churches, the Garda Station, Fire Station, Library, Post Office, Community Centre, Credit Union, etc. Commercial premises are also being well maintained and reflect the

interest which their owners obviously have in their presentation. Your comments regarding difficult sites and other problems (supported by photographs), are noted. It is assumed that these problems are being pursued with the owners – a slow process in the normal way. Hopefully you will have a better situation to report next year.

Landscaping:

Comments made under this heading in last years report regarding new housing estates are still pertinent. Open spaces are generally being well maintained. The adjudicator was, on this occasion, particularly impressed with the landscaping just beyond the entrance to the Tramore Golf Club which is now maturing very nicely. The Linear Park and picnic area on the Waterford Road also looks very nice and roundabouts in general are being well maintained. However the new roundabout on the Racecourse is very overgrown as is the area opposite it. Individual efforts such as window boxes, tubs of flowers and hanging baskets also looked very well again this year and are to be actively encouraged, particularly in the centre of the town where there are limited open spaces. By encouraging this type of development Tramore can become a pretty town as well as a clean one. The landscaping at Kennedy Park/Marion Terrace also looks very well again this year and is maturing nicely. With the amount of private building which is taking place in Tramore it would be important for your group to be watchful that contractors fulfil their planning obligations in relation to Planning Permission when finishing these projects.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You do not appear to have undertaken a project under this heading. This is indeed a pity. A simple project might be the positioning of boards containing information on wildlife in the vicinity of the end of the promenade indicating, for example, what types of birdlife can be seen in the vicinity of the Burrows. In addition perhaps something could be done with schools or in the provision of, at a suitable location, a bird feeding and drinking facility, nesting boxes etc. Perhaps this could be incorporated in any future planning. In the meantime you will receive a nominal mark under this heading.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day there was some minor evidence of littering in the main street, at the end of the promenade, at the bus depot and in some of the housing estates in Riverstown. Other than these spots and, for a town of its size, Tramore was practically litter free. Congratulations to all concerned. This is an important part of the competition and requires constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

For a busy town it was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. The beach, promenade, car parks and large open public spaces are also being well maintained. Car parking spaces in particular throughout the town and on the promenade looked very well and reflect great credit on the Local Authority and private owners.

Residential Areas:

As last year the majority of housing estates (too numerous to name) were visited as were many of the self-catering developments. New houses looked resplendent and many of the old houses are being very well maintained. In some cases, in the older estates, some refurbishment by way of painting is required. In this respect, and since Tramore is getting to be a very big centre, it would be important to seek the involvement of Residents Associations in your activities. In this respect your comments regarding approaches to the owners of neglected properties have been noted. In most cases open spaces are being well attended to. Others were obviously in need of cutting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Street surfaces and paths looked well. Ongoing work on the Newtown Road was noted. The surface of this road is very rough at the moment and hopefully will be repaired and renewed for next year. The small boat cove, while tidy, has a very rough surface. This is a lovely facility to have so close to the town and it is suggested that your Committee might take this on as a specific project. The suggestion is that the whole area calls for resurfacing which could be augmented by nice seating and perhaps a picnic area. It is a lovely facility to have – why not develop it? Approach roads generally are in good condition but again, and particularly in inclement weather, verges need constant monitoring and they should be strimmed as often as possible.

General Impression:

Reading through your notes the adjudicator gets the impression that, because of lack of local support, a sense of frustration may be creeping in. This should not be allowed to happen as Tramore has great potential in the competition having already achieved a fairly high mark. While it is nice to read that you have the support of your County Council, your Town Council, the local Supervalu supermarket and indeed some residents groups, it would appear that there may be a need for a greater awareness amongst the general public of the efforts being made and the results being achieved albeit under difficult circumstances. This has been proved in towns which have been highly successful in the competition some of which have, as big as, or in some cases, bigger populations than Tramore. Nevertheless what you are doing is excellent and the results are again to be seen this year. Congratulations and a big “well done” to all concerned.