

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Saltmills**

Ref: **41**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **199**

Category: **A**

Date: **14/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	23
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	21
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	25
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	199	189

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your three year plan, which was very interesting and informative. In particular, your plans for instigating an historical day was an interesting one. You obviously have a great interest in the question of waste management. The adjudicator read your plans for the restoration of Tintern church. The circular walk to the abbey is certainly a fascinating and interesting one for the walker.

The Built Environment:

Your work with Shaffrey Associates is certainly to be highly commended. The best of luck with your restoration work to St. Mary's Church of Ireland. The small shop was very simply presented. The post office was extremely fresh and the landscaped area opposite was greatly admired, with its colourful display of flowers. Vine Cottage was also extremely fresh as was the Tea Rooms. The whitewashed wall opposite the shop was also admired. Perhaps consideration could be given to the replacement of the concrete and wire fence to the mobile homes with an indigenous hedge of beech or hawthorn, or even a stone wall. This would make all the difference to this area and re-establish a more appropriate boundary.

Landscaping:

The village pump looked extremely fresh. There are a number of extremely interesting incidental landscaped areas throughout the village. The old anchor was simply presented. Another attractive landscaped area was that to the front of the Tea Rooms. The estuary and causeway area was also well presented. An attractive area on the road to Vine Cottage looked well. At the Pound, the grass had been cut, but dead grass not yet removed. This is an interesting, unusual and peaceful spot.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to make the scenic walk from Saltmills to Tintern more accessible is certainly a highly commendable one. Bannow Bay being an area of special control and protection, makes it one which is especially fortunate in this category of the competition. The adjudicator was interested to note that Tintern is a bat sanctuary. Your extensive interest in recycling/waste management is certainly to be applauded. Your plans for a wildlife day were also noted and we would certainly encourage this initiative.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. The village was virtually litter free. However, one or two papers in the vicinity of the re-cycling area were noted.

Tidiness:

The extended scope of the recycling areas by Vine Cottage was noted. The scrap material mentioned in last year's report is still place, the adjudicator was disappointed to note. Your comments regarding rejection of your offers to help were noted. The recycling area was fine although some weeds were noted to the adjacent wall. Weeds were also noted to the kerbsides by the mobile homes. The area in the vicinity of the crossroads to Vine Cottage was quite overgrown - to the extent that the bench was unusable! This was also mentioned in last year's report. A directional sign for the Ring of Hook in the village centre was virtually obscured by overgrowth.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good, with most houses extending their areas of interest to the roadsides and maintaining these beautifully. In particular, on the Fethard side of the village, the magnificent garden with a stream/ditch to the front of the stone wall and colourful flowers cascading over its boundary was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Wexford approach road was extremely well maintained. This affords the visitor a magnificent view over the bridge and into the village. It had well maintained grass verges and the adjudicator was pleased to meet a horse drawn caravan on this approach! The Fethard Road was not as well maintained, unfortunately. A new bank appeared to have been constructed here and its seeding has yet to come into full bloom. Wild honeysuckles and ferns were noted in the hedgerows. This approach to the village is rather a long stretch of area to maintain. In terms of signage, directional signs at the junction near the post office were stained with green algae growth and should be washed down. The village nameplate adjacent to the bank was virtually obscured by overgrowth in this location. This discrepancy in standard between the two approaches to the village was mentioned in last year's report also.

General Impression:

The estate village of Saltmills is set in a magnificent location on Bannow Bay. It is quite charming, extremely interesting and has a wealth of natural interest. It contains all the ingredients to do

extremely well in the competition. Good luck with your future endeavours.