

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennistymon**

Ref: **543**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	26	24
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	17	13
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	190

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for entry form, three year plan, report 2003/2004, list of Associations/bodies that you work with and details of Transition Year students involvement in your activities. All this was most helpful for the adjudicator. Although your Committee is small – 6 members – your targets are large and using this partnership approach is a good method to see these projects achieved. We would suggest that a time scale be attached to the projects outlined in your plan so that progress may be monitored on a continuous basis. In view of the large amount of new housing in and around Ennistymon it may also be possible, and indeed desirable, to obtain more volunteers from the ranks of the new residents.

The Built Environment:

It was good to see that the development at the Square has commenced. As you say, when this is completed it will form a good focal point in the town from which other developments will radiate. At present the state of the built environment in Ennistymon is very mixed. Good presentation was noted by a number of business premises (including the two new shops being built on the main street), the two Churches and Ennistymon Health Centre. Also, the Fire Station is now looking very well. However, there are still a number of derelict buildings throughout the town for which a long term solution needs to be found. What used to be a furniture store in the Square and which is now

for sale had ivy growing on the roof which was inclined to become intrusive. As this is such an important site in the town, hopefully the new owners will develop this building sensitively. Plastic signage such as at McInerney Hardware is out of keeping with the character of the town. The buildings around the Cascades viewing area are still poor – the old arched stone premises here could provide very appropriate craft outlets.

Landscaping:

The tree planting was noted at the picnic site which was well maintained, except for the fact that one stone table top was missing. We noted that you are awaiting the receipt of same from the Quarry. The hanging baskets on the bridge were colourful and attractive. The approach roads were well kept and the mature trees near the housing estate were admired. The Transition Year activities under this category such as creating a Tree Nursery, growing summer bedding plants and planting for Winter/Spring colour are very worthwhile. Again, of course, the area at the Cascades is where development is needed to make this a good experience for visitors.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting undertaken throughout the town contributes in this category and also the wildlife studies being undertaken by Transition year students. No doubt, when they have completed these studies it will enable them to undertake relevant wildlife projects in the future.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter to be seen during adjudication and your anti-litter drive through newspapers, newsletters, Schools etc appears to be paying off. However, constant vigilance is necessary in this category.

Tidiness:

Your provision of a skip on occasion at the cemetery gate is a worthwhile initiative. Overall, however, Ennistymon does not present a very tidy appearance – mainly due to the amount of building work taking place, the derelict properties and poor signage at a number of premises as previously mentioned.

Residential Areas:

Established private houses in and around the town were well presented and attractive. The many

new houses, newly built or in the course of construction, should be encouraged to join in your efforts and developers should be requested to leave all building sites neat and tidy.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your work on the approach roads was noted and directional signage was quite good throughout. The development of the Square will assist under this category. Kerbs were mostly weed free throughout.

General Impression:

Ennistymon is a town with great character which to deserves to reach its full potential. Now that work in the heart of the town has commenced we look forward to the expedition of other projects which have been in the pipeline for some time. Keep up the good work.