

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gathabawn**

Ref: **294**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **188**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	22
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	188	182

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was pleased to note that Gathabawn Rural Development Group have a good working relationship with Kilkenny County Council, the BNS Rural Development etc. We were pleased to note that you are using hedging that is indigenous to the area when planting new hedgerows. You have also maintained the traditional stone walling of the area by repairing a stone wall in the vicinity of the school. The survey you conducted in 2002 made very interesting reading, but you appear to have no work programme as such. This is required at this stage in the competition, in order that the adjudicators can see what your plans for the future development of the village are and what timescale you are setting against them. This document need only be two or three pages long outlining these plans and objectives and setting a target date for their achievement.

The Built Environment:

The dominant church and its boundary wall appeared quite grubby, on the day, unfortunately. The repairing to the stone walling is well worthwhile and this was noted on the Johnstown side of the village. The Post Office and shop looked quite charming. The school and its grounds were well maintained - perhaps it might be an idea to paint the galvanized rails in this location? The village appears to have a fine tradition of stone outbuildings and walls.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition you obviously enjoy. The stone wall with its raised planted bed and wheel at Carey's Forge looked extremely well. The limestone nameplates at various locations throughout the village are most attractive, but a further explanatory plaque would help the visitors to realize the significance of these particular elements. The tubs outside the church boundary wall looked well, as did the rhododendrons within the grounds. The well maintained open spaces on the Cullahill Road were admired and the trees are coming along nicely.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your wildlife amenity area is a fine initiative. Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas of how to develop further this aspect of the competition. You could perhaps get the local school children involved in order to draw up areas of wildlife interest in their locality? Local experts and ENFO are also a good source of information in this regard.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, as ever.

Tidiness:

Don't forget to consider outbuildings when considering the presentation of the village - there are a number of roofs that need painting in their traditional red and green colours before next year's competition. The boundary wall of the church has been mentioned previously. When there is construction work taking place, do ensure that any building materials are removed once work is completed, as they can give roadsides a very messy appearance.

Residential Areas:

Houses within the village and along approach roads were generally well maintained on the day - of particular note was the house on the hill with its stone wall surround which was greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Freshford Road affords the visitor a magnificent view to the church on the hillside at the top of the village. The village nameplate in this location was a little bit grubby and could be washed down. Hedgerows and verges were somewhat untamed - do try to achieve a natural appearance by striking a balance between this unkempt look and over manicured appearance. The Johnstown side of the village achieves this aim - with its well cut grass verges. Perhaps people are looking after the areas in the immediate vicinity of their houses? However, the children crossing sign in this location was obscured by brambles - this would appear quite dangerous, as it is located so close to the school and could cause an accident.

General Impression:

Gathabawn is an attractive village set in some magnificent scenery. It has a fine tradition of stone walling and buildings. Timber fencing and traditional timber gates that have been recently erected were greatly admired.