

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Inistioge**

Ref: **126**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **260**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	23
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>256</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Inistioge Tidy Towns Committee have now been in existence for 41 years and during this time, as you say yourselves, you have developed a policy of minimum intervention and the management of the existing heritage of the village. This has paid obvious dividends. You have consulted with a number of experts in regard to this work and this is also to your credit. Your three year plan made certainly very interesting reading and is quite sensible and comprehensive. You seem to have developed, for the most part, a good level of communication with Kilkenny County Council.

### The Built Environment:

The retention of such a large number of traditional up and down timber sash windows is to be applauded. There is a house for sale on the green - do ensure that when it is bought the windows are retained or replaced with new timber up and down sash windows. This, as you can see for yourselves, makes such a difference to the appearance and proportions of old buildings. There are a number of properties for sale including the Motte Restaurant. Most properties had been freshly painted on the day and looked extremely well. The National School looked very fresh with the village pump situated outside. Both churches and the various ruins throughout the village were well maintained. In terms of commercial premises the Circle of Friends and the Woodstock Arms were both well maintained as was the old Schoolhouse Café with its cheerful window boxes. Reddy's had removed two signs from its gable leaving a rather stained appearance - this should be painted and undoubtedly will be, in the not too distant future. It was evident that construction work was being

conducted to the heritage museum on the day.

### **Landscaping:**

Your work to the Village Green was noted and admired. It looked magnificent on the day, with its mature lime trees dappling the newly installed grass. The magnificent raised gardens to St. Columcille's Well on Hatchery Lane looked extremely well. The development of this area is taking place slowly with a number of gardens being created beside the Mill Race, including one with a tremendous display of sweetpea, which were marvelously fragrant on the day. The riverside park looked extremely well - the lower park being greatly admired with its overhanging mature trees and natural appearance. The limestone ionic pilasters to the Ten Arch Bridge were greatly admired - this structure has a magnificent level of fine detail for a work of engineering! The fantastic Church of Ireland graveyard at the roadside edge by Prior's Tower looked magnificent with its gravel, and displays of wild flowers.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

There was much evidence of ducks to the River Nore on adjudication day. Your riverside walk area is a marvelous amenity. Your work to the Mill Race area is awaited with eager anticipation. Your concern for the bats in this location is to your credit. The kingfisher must be a marvelous asset in terms of the wildlife habitats of the village-being such a rarity in the country generally.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was generally very good given the busy nature of the village. However, some papers and bottles were evident in a central location adjacent to the churches and a number of bottles and papers had been revealed by the grass cutting on the New Ross Road. Litter was also evident to the rear graveyard area of the Church of Ireland.

### **Tidiness:**

Two empty garages on the Thomastown Road looked quite unfortunate and hopefully these will be bought and developed in time. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the planted bed to the EMO Petrol Station was being maintained, despite it being unoccupied. Indeed there are a number of empty properties which are for sale in the village. Do ensure that when these are bought and restored that the continued use of traditional timber up and down sash windows is encouraged. A number of damaged bollards in a number of locations is evidence of the high level of traffic passing through the village. Do discourage fly posting on approach roads, which can give them a rather cluttered appearance. The stone wall had been damaged on the New Ross Road and should be repaired. Some tin roofs to sheds behind the Woodstock Arms should be repainted in their traditional red colour as they appear quite rusty at the moment. Despite this the village generally had a very neat and ordered appearance on the day.

### **Residential Areas:**

Houses within the village centre and along approach roads were obviously well cared for. Some charming houses on High Street. One with box hedging to its façade gives the appearance of being constructed entirely of this greenery! It looked magnificent and most unusual! A few boundaries on this approach road appeared quite grubby and should be repainted before next year's competition. A rose garden beside the Old Schoolhouse Café was greatly admired, as indeed was a magnificent row of houses at the lower level of High Street. The new houses on Mill Road appear to be quite in keeping with the character of the village.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Thomastown Road was well maintained with well cut grass verges affording the visitor a

magnificent view across the playing fields to the River Nore. The Graiguenamanagh had cut grass verges but the dead grass had yet to be removed. This is a marvelous approach to the village with lime trees overhanging its stone wall. However, the Graiguenamanagh sign on this road was virtually obscured by overgrowth in this location. The two traditional arrows to both sides of the Ten Arch Bridge should be repainted up before next year's competition. The Tullagher Road is a charming approach winding down to the village, as it does. It was generally very good, although a couple of boundary walls should be painted up before next year's competition.

### **General Impression:**

Inistioge is a most charming village with a wealth of history and much to interest the visitor. Its residents show an obvious care and pride in its appearance, which is reflected on the ground by its attractive appearance.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The village was very well presented on a Monday second adjudication day. Your two strong points: - the Square and the River Park looked extremely well, with new seating and well presented landscaping areas. You are endowed with some magnificent mature trees, a beautiful river, multi arched bridge, historic buildings, attractive shopfronts and the adjacent forest: - all combining to present Inistioge to a high standard. You now need to pay more attention to detail and previous year's developments need high maintenance and presentation. The second adjudication was a little early for the new sign at The Three Stars: we look forward to seeing it feature in next year's adjudication. You might consider erecting an information plaque on the most interesting village bridge.