

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Urlingford**

Ref: **297**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **215**

Category: **B**

Date: **13/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	22	25
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	215	215

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was extremely disappointed to note the lack of work programme or map contained in your application. Your entry form states that these were submitted for last year's competition. However, the report from last year's judge appears to contradict this statement! It is essential to draw up a work plan in order to set yourselves aims and objectives in order to garner support from the local community and statutory organizations. This is something you appear to be lacking. This report or plan should then be submitted with your application to the competition next year, in order that the progress that you have made can be monitored by the adjudicators. A map is also essential in order to highlight the areas on which you have worked in order that the adjudicators can properly assess them.

The Built Environment:

Both public and commercial premises throughout the village generally looked well tended on adjudication day. At the Old School / Community Hall, the recycling bins should be screened from public view, although the attractive rose garden was greatly admired. The school and its grounds looked well although the building itself and its boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition. The church was fine. Commercial premises of note were the Forge, Urlingford Arms, Doyle's Undertakers, Mary Mac's, Hayes, and, in particular, the Mason's Apron and Murphy's Pharmacy. Do ensure that the render isn't removed from traditionally plastered vernacular buildings. This is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but can also lead to problems with water

penetration, as these buildings were not meant to have their stonework exposed. The Garda Station and Library were greatly admired and are a marvelous asset to have in the village. O'Brien's Newsagents and Gift Shop on the School Road also looked well.

Landscaping:

The rose garden has been mentioned previously. The Mill cemetery was greatly admired. It is extremely well maintained with an attractive stone wall and simple metal gate. However, the pedestrian entrance gate further along will need to be tended to before next year's competition. The open space with seating diagonally opposite the school appeared somewhat overgrown. Some of the commercial premises contribute well to this aspect of the competition, such as J.J. Kavanagh's with its planted flowerbed to the front. More work in regard to this should be encouraged, amongst the commercial properties of the village. The attractive flowerbed at the junction of the main Dublin / Cork Road and the Kilkenny Road was greatly admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had struck through this particular part of the application form. This is an important part of the competition at this stage. You should try to incorporate a wildlife project for next year's competition. Consult with the Tidy Towns Handbook for suggestions in regard to further developing this aspect of the competition. You should also consult local experts and get the local school children involved in drawing up areas of wildlife interest in their locality.

Litter Control:

This was an extreme problem on adjudication day. A lot of litter was evident all along the main street, in particular, outside the Forge. More was evident on the road to the school. This is an aspect of the competition that you will have to tackle seriously before next year's competition.

Tidiness:

As previously mentioned, commercial yard areas should perhaps be screened from public view by means of traditional stone walls or indigenous beech or hawthorn hedging. Curved tin roofs should be repainted in their traditional red colour and outbuildings should be re-whitewashed - a number on Mill Street created a bad impression as one approached the village from this direction. Josephine's Restaurant could consider a landscaping project to their car park area - perhaps a similar treatment to the successful one they have used at the adjacent petrol station. Advertising hoardings along approach roads and in the village centre give roads a rather cluttered appearance. One or two derelict buildings along the main street create a bad impression.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally quite good. Of particular note was a magnificent house in yellow with marvelous hanging baskets filled with petunias on Main Street opposite Murphy's Pharmacy. Perhaps more trees could be considered to the open space of the houses on the Dublin side of the village? The pretty cottages on the school road were admired. Perhaps the village pump in this location could be restored to its former glory, as it is currently quite rusty and missing its domed top. The stone pig statues at Emerald Gardens were admired and look quite unique!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been improved upon. The large number of industrial premises on Cork Road have been mentioned previously. There are also a number of building sites and hopefully these will ensure that they landscape their new developments in order to

contribute to the overall appearance of the village. Advertising hoardings have also been previously mentioned and should be discouraged. Grass verges appeared quite overgrown and those on the Dublin approach were also quite neglected. There is no real sense of arrival on either approach to the village. In terms of street furniture, the dangerous bend side on the Mill Road is in bad condition and should be painted up before next year's competition or replaced.

General Impression:

Urlingford is a busy village located on the main Dublin / Cork Road. It will need to seriously consider putting together a work programme before next year's competition in order to progress further in the competition.