

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlingford**

Ref: **309**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **221**

Category: **C**

Date: **12/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	28
Tidiness	20	13	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	221	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Committee are thanked for their application this year. The 3-5 year plan could be expanded a little to indicate the activities planned for each of the years and this will aid both the adjudicator and the committee in measuring progress and ensuring that marks are awarded for works completed. There was a very informative map and application form. Well done in securing Clar funding and in the successful fundraising efforts to date.

The Built Environment:

Carlingford enjoys a most wonderful setting and there are few places in Ireland as beautiful as the vista of the Lough and Slieve Foye as one enters Carlingford. There has been much development work in the last number of years in terms of both one off and estate housing. A new hotel is also in the process of being built along the approach road from Greenore. The roads around the village bears the scars of the heavy goods vehicles that accompany such development. The village is dominated by King Johns Castle and Taaffes Castle - as stated in last year's report, the OPW should be contacted in relation to tackling the weeds growing on the walls of these buildings. King John's pier looked very well with new seating and lighting installed. Market Square and Tholsel St. are two very attractive areas and contain a number of interesting shop fronts.

Landscaping:

Landscaping on the approach roads to the village looks very well especially the picnic area with the unusual stone picnic tables. A significant number of the shops and houses in the village had a wonderful array of colour from hanging baskets. The tennis courts were very well maintained. There were a number of landscaped areas that required weeding eg. the entrance to the estate where the doctor's surgery is situated.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee should find valuable information from ENFO as stated in their 5 year plan and the proposed information boards will be most welcome once in place.

Litter Control:

It was very unfortunate that on the day of adjudication there were a number of areas strewn with litter. The adjudicator had reason to be close to Carlingford on another occasion and returned to assess whether or not this was once off- however, the same was the case on both days. Around the Civil Defence building at King John's pier, the grass area at the car park at the back of the playground, the grass area beside the playpark, the grounds of the Tourist Office. There were two broken bottles in the Tholsel St. car park along with litter and two areas of broken bottles in Market Square. Carlingford has become a very popular area with visitors and this brings increased problems with litter. Perhaps the committee could enlist the help of school children during the summer to help out. The committee have indicated that they are seeking the assistance of a street sweeper during high season and if this is forthcoming it should be a help in dealing with this problem.

Tidiness:

The approaches into the town look extremely tidy and cared for and makes a very welcoming sight. However, there were piles of cut grass stacked up on the verges along by the sea wall. The centre of the village and Dundalk St. were very tidy. The work being carried out on the open channel at River St. is most welcome and workers were working on the wall on the day of adjudication. Similar work on channel at St. Michaels Tce. is eagerly anticipated. The area around this channel at St. Michaels Tce. was overgrown with weeds and was very untidy in general as was the area surrounding W. O'Hares (closed down) on Dundalk St. and the entrance to the marina. There are walls in the town that require whitewashing and removal of weeds. A number of the pavements had weeds growing through the stones and at the base of walls. The Church grounds looked wonderful as did the Abbey, Taffees Castle and the Tennis Courts.

Residential Areas:

There are some wonderful houses and gardens throughout the village and the approach roads. A number of others require painting of the exterior and of the boundary walls. There are several new once off houses and estates that require landscaping of the surrounding area. The committee should encourage participation by the residents of these new estates in the Tidy Towns project.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the day of adjudication a number of visitors were wandering around the town enjoying it. The main approach roads to Carlingford were very welcoming. Tholsel St. is a very attractive street as are the piers that dominate the sea views. The one way system alleviates some of the congestion to Market Square. Some of the back areas and roads have been damaged by the heavy goods vehicles due to the development work going on in and around the town. A number of the established buildings require painting. The signpost at the corner of Dundalk St. and River Street carries far too many signs.

General Impression:

Carlingford is a wonderful Heritage Town with spectacular views. It enjoys a great deal of visitors and this is set to continue with the new hotel coming onstream. As the number of both visitors and new residents continues to grow this provides a challenge to the Tidy Town Committee to maintain the high standards set in the past. Litter and Tidiness, in particular, detracted from an otherwise excellent general impression of the town, and if these issues can be tackled, I am confident that the slight reduction in marks this year will be recovered and last year's standards surpassed next year.