

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Trim**

Ref: **206**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **221**

Category: **E**

Date: **26/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	31
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	37	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>214</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application and your development plan. It contained excellent information and pictures and was easy to read. Even though you say it is ambitious, it is achievable and gives good direction. The map was also useful, though a map of the town centre with street names would be also useful as the judges might not necessarily be familiar with the town. The town is regaining its status as a heritage town and significant hard work was evident on the day of judging. It was good to note ongoing communication between the various groups including Youth reach. It was also commendable to get local sponsorship from Supervalu.

### The Built Environment:

The buildings in general throughout the town looked well - though there were some areas of dereliction and also ongoing building e.g. the strategic spot opposite the post office on the main street. The main street was most pleasant - hanging baskets looked well and will do even better as summer progresses. There was also some good strong signage e.g. Watsons Elementary Cafe, the Pharmacy, Pat Leonards. The new Courthouse looked well, though the greyness (to echo the color of the limestone) might be broken up by some close planting e.g. scarlet geranium planters up close to the building. The area of shops/restaurants beside the river might also benefit from some additional planting such as baskets. The pump on the Kildalkey road just out of the town is important and needs a coat of paint. The Church opposite the Castle is really magnificent - well done. Pottertons on the Kilcock approach required attention. The objectives set out under the built section of the

development plan are commendable and the judges look forward to their completion. The shifting of the town centre is ambitious and will be interesting to watch.

### **Landscaping:**

There were some nice use of tubs throughout the town. Single species or simple combinations work well i.e. the petunias along the terraced houses opposite the castle. The planting at the grot on the Dublin road was much admired. There was also a lovely view of the town from Avondale and although the flower bed display could not be found, the area was neat and tidy and recently mown. The bench however did need repainting. The wooden play area beside the site for the new town centre is a fine amenity area - and the proposed linear Park will also add considerably this part of the town. It is good to see a town turn its face towards the river again., Dead trees were noted in some places round the town, e.g. Avondale and these should be removed.

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

There are huge opportunities within the town land of Trim and these are being taken advantage of to the benefit of the town and wildlife in the area. The Porch Fields area around the castle and the river all looked healthy in relation to wildlife. Management is required and this is being put in place to counteract problems that may arise. The involvement of school children in this section is very important as they will learn to appreciate their surroundings.

### **Litter Control:**

Minimal litter was observed on the day of judging and this is some feat for a town of this size. Litter was evident in some of the housing estates and this should be tackled by the residents. The centre of the town seemed litter free and although there were numerous litter bins to be seen, a number of these required attention, either being broken or requiring a coat of paint. The judges look forward to the sponsorship of these bins as an upgrade is due for some of them, e.g. opposite the Spinning Wheel . Due to recent legislation - and noted elsewhere - the accumulation of cigarette butts outside pubs was noticeable. The recycling facilities on the ring road are excellent and well used - basing this on the use on the day of judging.

### **Tidiness:**

The town was generally neat and tidy, although there was some weedy areas along the kerbs in one of the housing estates - near Supervalu. A more consistent approach to the cutting of grass, marginal mowing in some circumstances would contribute to tidiness on the outskirts of the town.

### **Residential Areas:**

The presentation of the estates was varied though not radically so. Most had made a good effort. Some did have weedy areas and a scattering of litter. The estates on the Dublin road generally looked well. There were also some fine front gardens in Sarsfield park with some enthusiastic gardeners evident. Residential areas (apart from consultation) are not mentioned in your plan and this is an oversight, especially as there are so many new residences and estates in the Trim area in the past few years. An inter estate competition or, as suggested last year, a front garden competition, would help to ensure a positive input in this area.

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

There was a lot of traffic through the town and apart for the works ongoing on the bridge, there were roadworks being undertaken at the roundabout on the Navan road. Although there seemed to be a great number of parking areas, they still did not seem sufficient for the amount of cars in the town. The closure of the bridge did cause some queuing and hopefully this will be resolved when the bridge is complete. The new signage 'as gaeilge' was noted and looked very attractive. In many

places, e.g. the Dublin road, the pavement and road surfaces required attention and this should be considered as it detracts from the town at present.

**General Impression:**

Trim looked well - it is regaining its former glory as a serious participant in the competition. The plan is good and the judges look forward to its completion over the next few years. There is a good attitude and an emphasis on integration - good luck.