

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edenderry**

Ref: **508**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **195**

Category: **E**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	17	17
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>192</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a very helpful and detailed submission outlining work on hand and plans for the future. We commend you for your ability to deal with a number of agencies in the town and I'm sure your efforts are rewarded with generous funding. The first thing that struck this adjudicator inspecting the town for the first time, is the unusual lengthy main street and the large housing estates, public buildings and areas requiring landscaping. Eadon Doire has much to be proud of and you are one of the very few towns in the country to have such an expanse of canal. You are also endowed with many fine 19th century buildings and some fine period houses, not least the Town Hall.

### The Built Environment:

As mentioned earlier, you have a great range of buildings in all parts of the town. Many shop fronts are responding to your appeals for commercial operators to present their premises to a high standard. Eye catching were the following: Credit Union, Doyles Video, Padraic O Connor, Byrnes, Flower Pot, Mystic Fashion, emales menwear, Finbar Cullens Bar, AIB. The Town Hall is very well presented and an excellent building dominating the square. Good to know the clock is working also. The new Oaklands Community College is impressive. The RC Church was excellent with attractive environs. The avenue up to the C of I Church is unique and provides a lovely setting. The old National School is very poor. There are some very attractive and distinctive door-ways in the main street and opposite the Town Hall. This type of architecture should be highlighted.

## **Landscaping:**

Well done on your work with organising a garden competition. Indeed, local competitions are a valuable way of generating further support for your efforts. You should formulate a tree planting blitz for the main street, to include improved off-street car parking. This would be in line with what is happening in other towns as they help to calm traffic and bring colour to the town. You seem to have adequate width for an attractive scheme and you should visit other towns that have embarked on such developments. The scheme should also involve more seating in the town area, the aim being to get people enjoying their own town and reducing the impact of excessive traffic. You will notice the value of trees that were planted in previous years and of the many landscaping projects, both community and individual. Some approach roads are overgrown and need grass cutting. We acknowledge the work done by many commercial operators who add colour to their premises with window boxes and hanging baskets. The Square building is really an eyesore and needs development on this important site. Well done on the oak tree planting in the Park.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have great opportunity to promote an increased appreciation of wildlife through the canal and other areas. This is essentially an educational project and you might consider contacting some of the schools with a view to organising a survey that might lead to identifying the popular wildlife species of the area. This in turn might lead you to erect some display boards on the canal banks highlighting wildlife species.

## **Litter Control:**

You have problems in this category and there were many pockets of litter in evidence on adjudication day. Particularly disappointing was the harbour which seems to be a litter trap. This is regrettable at this otherwise attractive amenity area, complete with recognition to your Tidy Towns founder. The access stone steps to the canal from the footpath are also in need of repair. The recycling depot at the Town Hall should be relocated to a more accessible area: it does not improve the appearance of the Hall, but in fairness it is not being abused, unlike the recycling centre at the entrance to Church View Housing Estate which is quite unsightly. Litter was very evident at St. Mary's School which is a fine building.

## **Tidiness:**

You have a good deal of dereliction in and around the town. Indeed, many fine buildings are now deteriorating further as time passes by. Unoccupied buildings will further decline in condition unless they get attention. This leads to untidiness and keeps your marks down. Some buildings have unsightly advertising hoardings: e.g., the gable end of the building near the catholic church. With regard to derelict sites the Co. Council has powers to compel owners to act and improve presentation.

## **Residential Areas:**

The many estates, some built in the 1950s are really extensive and many have spacious green areas ideal for landscaping. Kilroy Ave has some good tree planting and many houses have very attractive gardens. Some, however are poor in appearance. Your garden competition may help with generating more interest. Church View has problems and there is a very ugly building on the right hand side leading up to the estate. Many boundary walls are in need of attention. Boyne Meadows is excellent in appearance. New housing developments should be well landscaped and you should canvass these estates for new recruits to your committee.

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

In general, approach roads and road structures are well presented. The old fire station and environs are very bad and need attention. The new Clonmullan Housing is really extensive and will be a further traffic demand on this entrance. We hope these houses will be well landscaped when complete. We found the Workhouse Cemetery poorly presented and despite the sign it lacks identity as to where it is .

### **General Impression:**

This large town with one of the longest main streets in the county has great character of distinctive 19th century architecture. It is endowed with an attractive canal that will grow in importance in the coming years. We urge you to formulate a detailed plan in association with the local authority and put it before the community. You then need phased implementation. You have potential to become a high scorer in the competition but much of the urgent requirements are beyond the control of a Tidy Towns committee. We comment you on your efforts but you need improved participation from other agencies. Good luck for 2005.