

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-On-Suir**

Ref: **476**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **213**

Category: **E**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the information and map sent with your entry form, all of which was read with interest. While the comments made in last years report regarding the production of a 3/5 year plan etc. are still applicable, nevertheless it is very encouraging to read your proposals for 2004/2005. Hopefully they will all come to fruition. It is encouraging to read that you continue to have the support of Carrick-on-Suir Town Council, FAS, ICA, Schools and Town Gardner. Possibly it was he who was seen at work on adjudication day.

The Built Environment:

All your public buildings were well presented again this year – Churches, Courthouse, Library, Garda Station and Schools. The Clock Tower is in need of refurbishment and the graffiti mentioned last year does not appear to have been removed. The Tudor Manor and the Heritage Centre are indeed unique buildings. Unfortunately the gates of the latter were closed when the Adjudicator called and therefore was not able to see your new floodlighting. Commercial premises, in the main, again looked well but some obviously are in need of refurbishment. The Quay area is a fine facility which you are very fortunate to have.

Landscaping:

Improved and additional landscaping was indeed noticed and work was in progress on adjudication day in the area of Kickham Street. Sean Healy Park and Sean Kelly Sports Centre are being very well maintained and the Town Park has improved on last year. Landscaping throughout the town looked very nice and the area surrounding the Tudor Manor House looked well. Landscaping appears to be a strong point in your Tidy Towns effort and in this respect a very good job is being done. Congratulations to all concerned. Where presented tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes also looked very nice and created a nice ambience in the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted and this is very good work indeed. Do however try to extend your activities. It is, for example, suggested that you might get your schools involved in a wildlife project perhaps with the provision on nesting boxes and feeding tables in the school grounds or at some other appropriate point. This would be very interesting for them and would be a very nice facility and attraction in the town.

Litter Control:

It gives the Adjudicator no joy to say that Carrick-on-Suir has a serious litter problem. On adjudication day, while the Main Street was comparatively free of litter, the side streets and main areas on the outskirts of the town were very badly littered. There were so many of them that they would be too numerous to mention all of them but notably the Quay Area, the Sean Healy Park, most side streets, the Town Park, on approach roads and indeed in many other places. While it is accepted that much of this may be removed over the course of the day, nevertheless there does not appear to be any 'Litter Free Consciousness' in Carrick-on-Suir if one is to judge by what can only be described as indiscriminate littering. It is a matter which you should seriously consult with your Town Council on particularly with relation to the implementation of Litter Fines.

Tidiness:

Other than the unfortunate litter problem, generally speaking Carrick-on-Suir was presented in a tidy manner but some of the comments made in last year's report regarding open storage and a number of areas in the town which are in need of refurbishment.

Residential Areas:

Carrick-on-Suir has many housing estates both old and new. While it was not possible to visit them all those that were visited looked well with open spaces being well maintained but unfortunately, again, there was some litter to be seen. Individual houses generally are being well maintained. As in every town, inevitably some need a coat of paint. An added attraction was that many had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which looked very nice and added greatly to the overall appearance of Carrick-on-Suir. Well done to all concerned. It is suggested that it would be imperative that, if you have not already done so, Residence Associations should be formed and represented on your committee. Their assistance, and indeed individual household involvement is vitally important for this part of the competition. You cannot succeed without it.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As last year, approach roads from Waterford, Clonmel and Kilkenny looked very nice and, in particular, those from Waterford and Clonmel had some wonderful landscaping which created a lovely first impression. Generally speaking road surfaces are good and pavements are being well maintained.

General Impression:

Littering is still your biggest problem. Your committee and the Authorities in Carrick-on-Suir will have to take a very firm stand if this is to be solved which, in other centres, has revolved around the appointment of a Litter Warden and Court fines. It is a pity that, in a lovely town like Carrick-on-Suir, this should be the case and there is obviously a necessity to appeal to public pride. Consider all this in your future planning. Consider also the further landscaping of your very nice open spaces and the planting of trees and shrubs which will give you some colour on an all year round basis. Trees planted in the past are now maturing very nicely and are a great addition to the overall appearance of the town. In turn, new planting will be for the future and posterity will thank you for it. With its very fine public buildings and the River/Quay area Carrick-on-Suir has a lot going for it and has the capacity to do extremely well in the competition. However careful planning and attention to detail is required. It is a pity indeed that the great efforts of your committee and other bodies are spoiled somewhat by the indiscriminate attitude of other sections of the community. Do persevere however and the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Carrick-on-Suir again next year with the hope that this situation will have resolved itself.