

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stradbally-Waterford**

Ref: **333**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **270**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	38	36
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	37
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>265</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The local support which you are receiving from your community, the County Development Board, County Council and other sources was evident in the tremendous work which has been carried out in Stradbally this year. The village looked tremendously colourful in the June sunshine and reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their environment. Well done to all concerned. Thank you indeed for the information sent with the entry form, including the map and the plan. The latter is a further indication of the intense interest which prevails in the environmental development of the village. In your planning, however, do try to identify, say over a 3/5 year period, on a year to year basis, what projects you can carry out within your physical and financial resources with the assistance of the above mentioned groups. This also has the benefit of acting as a yearly yardstick by which to measure progress being made. Could it be suggested also that, for next year, you might indicate on the map, by way of a colour code, where projects have been carried out as this makes it much easier for the Adjudicator to have sight of them.

### The Built Environment:

All the buildings mentioned last year were again visited this year - the GAA Centre, the Churches, the Schools, the Credit Union building and the Handball Alley, all of which were very well presented and are being well maintained, Great credit is due to all concerned with these buildings for this. Both Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove were also visited and are indeed lovely facilities to have. The road to Stradbally Cove has much improved. The whole built environment in the vicinity of the

village green including the magnificent Heritage Sundial and its surrounding picnic table and heritage information panel are, of course, the focal point of the village and were much admired. Commercial premises throughout the village are being extremely well maintained and reflect great credit on their owners. Your stone walls are a lovely feature and add greatly to the overall ambience of Stradbally. While the Public Toilet building looks very nice, unfortunately it was very dilapidated inside. It badly needs refurbishment and repainting with evidence of considerable graffiti.

### **Landscaping:**

Wonderful displays of landscaping were to be seen everywhere. On the approach road from Bonmahon, in the vicinity of the Green, at the Handball Alley and indeed everywhere throughout the village on main and side streets. It can only be said that it is magnificent throughout and reflects great credit on your committee and community. Tubs of flowers, hanging baskets, containerised planting and window boxes abound and reflect great credit on those who presented them and for their wonderful maintenance. It is probably unfair to mention any specific examples - the overall effort is so good - but High Street, the Green and the Handball Alley were most striking. The Water Garden is charming, as is the area of Church Lane. Sincerest congratulations to all involved in this wonderful total presentation.

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

The production of the Wildlife Audit is certainly a step in the right direction and the Adjudicator looks forward to seeing further results of this next year. Both Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove were visited but the information boards mentioned in your report do not appear to be there. There is a wonderful opportunity in Stradbally for the provision of a wildlife project which, not alone would be attractive residents and visitors but also gain you additional marks in the competition. The suggestion made last year regarding a possible project with your School children would still apply and would be a very nice undertaking.

### **Litter Control:**

Stradbally was totally litter free on adjudication day. This is a wonderful effort by all concerned. Well done.

### **Tidiness:**

The village again this year was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again reflect in no uncertain way the tremendous interest which your residents and commercial premises have in the preservation of their environment. Building works throughout the village has created some untidiness but this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication.

### **Residential Areas:**

New housing estates add greatly to the present stock. Special mention must be made of the Comeragh Housing Estate and the new housing estate on the Ballyvooney Cove Road which, on adjudication day, was being prepared for landscaping. The new development of thatched houses will be a wonderful addition to the centre of the village when completed and in the event, the Adjudicator looks forward to seeing them next year. In addition the Rockville Housing Estate must get special mention for its presentation which was much admired. Throughout the village both terraced and individual houses are, in most cases, being extremely well maintained with, again, gardens in full bloom which added considerably to the overall landscaping of the village. The presentation of tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes by those who do not have gardens is exemplary. In all cases, they are being maintained to a very high standard.

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

Approach roads were again very nicely presented with verges being cut and, in most cases, some lovely landscaping. The Chapel Road however looks somewhat overgrown and, since there is a large area involved, perhaps your Local Authority could be prevailed upon to carry out at least one annual cutting preferably during the tourist season. Road surfaces are excellent and paths are being very well maintained also. Great credit is due to Waterford County Council for all of this work.

### **General Impression:**

Stradbally is being beautifully maintained at all levels. Do not lose sight of this as it is backbone of your entry in the competition. Nevertheless do look at the various headings in the competition and see where you might be able to provide additional projects and developments which would further enhance the village and, in the process, gain you additional marks in the competition. You will appreciate that you are at very high level in the competition as such and, at this stage, additional marks are hard to come by. It calls for careful planning and attention to detail. In this respect, your plan is excellent and the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Stradbally again next year to see further progress made.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It has been a number of years since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting Stradbally and in this time much development has taken place, especially in the residential sector. Some creeper could be considered at the boundary wall of the GAA grounds as this appears somewhat bare at the moment. Rockville Estate sported well cut grass verges and colourful snapdragons. Attractive displays of wildflowers created a good impression on High Street. More attractive floral displays were noted at the church car park and the main streets looked very well with colourful presentations of flower boxes and hanging baskets to many houses. The stock of thatched cottages in the village have been well maintained. The street furniture is appropriate to the character of the village. Signage is discreet and suitable. O Cuirrin bar has pretty-windows upstairs. Ball alley is a bit stained but there is good planting outside. Both Stradbally and Ballyvooney Coves looked well but still no wildlife signage.