

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Marshalstown**

Ref: **198**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **188**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	
Litter Control	40	32	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	188	

Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Marshalstown to the Tidy Towns competition and wish them every success in it. It is gratifying to read that, as a first time entry, you will have the support of Wexford County Council, your school children, FAS and, of course your local community without which you cannot hope to succeed. While Marshalstown is a very small village you should endeavour, nevertheless, to draw up a three year plan in which you would identify projects which could be carried out under the different headings of the competition and within your annual physical and financial resources. Your plan need not be expensive and could be done in conjunction with your community, Wexford County Council and FAS. The existing proposals on your map are excellent and could be incorporated into such a plan which could also be used as a yardstick by which you would measure your progress annually. In the event, perhaps you might send a copy of the plan with your entry form next year and also a map indicating on it where projects have taken place in 2005 so that the adjudicator can have sight of them.

The Built Environment:

Your Church, School and Community Centre looked very well on adjudication day as did the car park. Your Graveyard is being well maintained and your plans for surfacing and lining of the parking area have been noted. A major feature of the village is your stone walls which are being beautifully maintained and are very attractive. Your one shop, while not very large, is nevertheless very quaint. Your plan to build new public toilets was also noted and will be a great addition to the

village.

Landscaping:

As part of your overall planning, you should draw up a landscaping plan. This could be done in conjunction with your Local Authority who very often have a suitably qualified person on their staff to advise on such matters. Many centres concentrate on flower beds, hanging baskets, tubs of flowers, etc. but are now also being encouraged to think in terms of planting trees and shrubs which would give some colour on an all year round basis. Trees in particular are for the future and posterity would thank you for them. Some nice landscaping has already been noted throughout the village creating a nice atmosphere.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hope is that Marshalstown will provide a wildlife project which initially could be simply done by your school children in terms of the provision of nesting boxes and feeding tables with perhaps the provision of a wildlife board showing what can be spotted locally. You may be fortunate in having a wildlife expert or an interested person locally who could help out with such a project. Alternatively consult with Duchás or its successor.

Litter Control:

It is obvious that everybody is playing their part as Marshalstown was litter free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. This is an important part of the competition and also needs constant and careful monitoring.

Tidiness:

The village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner and again reflects greatly the interest which your residents have in the preservation of their environment.

Residential Areas:

The local Authority housing estate comprises most of the houses in Marshalstown. If they have not already done so they should be encouraged to establish a Residents Association following which you could invite a member on to your committee. Individual houses throughout the village are being very well maintained and some had excellent gardens which were in full bloom on adjudication day which were a joy to behold. This type of individual effort is absolutely necessary if you are to succeed in the competition. Congratulations to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Adjudication normally takes place from the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs whichever you opt for. As far as possible, verges should be strimmed from thereon in but bearing in mind the guidance given in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat. This too is an important part of the competition as approach roads tend to set the tone for the rest of the village. Road surfaces in the main are not good and you should approach your County Council on this. Footpaths are being well maintained but perhaps could be extended in certain areas.

General Impression:

Marshalstown is a lovely little village with some very nice architecture and a very high quality in its stone walls. Further success in the competition would be achieved through planning and attention to detail. In this respect, the map is a very good start. The Adjudicator looks forward to returning to

Marshalstown again next year to see what further progress has been made and in the meantime wishes you every success.