

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stratford-On-Slaney**

Ref: **752**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **246**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	243

Overall Developmental Approach:

Stratford on Slaney continues to retain the high standards that we are well accustomed to. The committee membership of 10 is strong and the inclusion of all ages is welcome. The contribution that the children of the village make is significant and very valuable towards passing on the awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. A planned approach to development is the best way forward and it would be helpful at this stage to plan for the next 5 years outlining the key issues and how they can be achieved. The information supplied with the entry form was very helpful as was the map.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland church look well. The school is well painted but areas to the back yard are now in need of paint. The business premises are well presented and some paint planning is needed for some in the not too far distance together with the white wall closest to the green. The community hall looks fresh. The stonewalls through the village look particularly well and the use of stone around triangular borders at the green gives them a very attractive framework. The ruined building on the corner site hopefully will become more interesting in the future. The new housing development is a major change for the village and the involvement at the planning stage must have been very satisfactory. It is important that the finished product matches expectations and a watchful eye should be kept on this development to ensure it complies with what is expected.

Landscaping:

Stratford continues to excel in the maintenance of all the green spaces through the village. The areas of grass verge look so attractive – the simple formula of well-tended grass, boundaries, hedges and trees is magical. The planting features opposite the Post office look very well in their invigorated state. The new tree plantings are welcome. It is wise to have a continuity of tree planting as the years pass. The village garden is progressing well. The maze has grown very quickly and now needs tight trimming to keep it in shape and green. The work in the plastic tunnel is very good – at this stage it would be helpful to reclad the tunnel. The compost heaps make good sense. Container planting through the village gives some colour and the four triangles are a lovely feature. Individual gardens contribute well to the overall appearance of the village and good credit is due for this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The inclusion of features to encourage wild life in the garden is a great idea. The involvement of school children is a key factor. Having the help of a leader from Conservation Ireland will set projects on the right track and this is positive.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter freedom in the village and having a green flag in the school is a great tribute to the school children and their teachers. This idea spreads from the schools into homes and is most valuable in developing an environmental approach to waste materials.

Tidiness:

Stratford on Slaney can truly be said to be a “Tidy Town”. All the hallmarks of care and attention to detail are evident and the result is recognizable. The building construction in progress will cause some disruption and hopefully this will be resolved at the end. The ruined building offers an ongoing challenge.

Residential Areas:

The residences in the town are very well cared for and there is an obvious pride observed here. The 10 new houses will bring a new aspect to the town and perhaps like so many other villages in the county will be the start of more to come. Retaining the integrity of the village style should be a priority in whatever developments occur and your input at the planning stage is an obvious way to help this.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces in places are very broken and an overall surfacing is overdue. Kerbing and paths are in good condition. The approach roads are well cared for and the maintenance of verges and hedgerows along the way is meticulous.

General Impression:

Stratford on Slaney is to be congratulated for its continual attention to detail, which makes it a very special place much admired by many people and a beautiful place to live.

Second Round Adjudication:

Stratford-On-Slaney is a most attractive elevated village that looked really well on the morning of

2nd round adjudication. What makes this village so successful in environmental terms is the basic but highly effective approach adopted to the overall presentation. Natural landscaping is used to very good effect. For 2006 do prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan that will guide your work for the next three years. It is noted that you are discussion with Wicklow County Council in regard to the preparation of a Village Design Statement, and this is critically important. The Bring Centre was very tidy on the day of 2nd round adjudication and the young trees are coming on well. The adjudicator has nominated this for the national Best Bring Bank Award and will be considered among other nominations for that award.