

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullow**

Ref: **107**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **237**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	237	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Tullow Tidy Towns Committee and the DTA Limited have much to be proud of in regard to the work you have accomplished in the town over the last number of years! Although you feel that it is difficult to show the work you have achieved in an application form, your submission certainly fully indicates the effort to which you have gone! Many thanks for this information, although in future, your application form, expanded answers to these questions, map and five year work programme should be more than sufficient information to submit! The adjudicator was pleased to note that you had added to your work programme by hand, which goes to show that you are constantly monitoring and updating it! The adjudicator read with interest your work in regard to the Pride of Place initiative. It certainly is a marvellous accolade to have been chosen by Carlow County Council to take part in it. Good luck with your preparations for the numerous centenaries and anniversaries coming up within the town.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned by last year's assessor, the standard in this category of the competition is somewhat inconsistent with some premises not achieving the same standard as that of others. However, buildings generally looked well and evidence of improvements were seen on the day particularly in relation to painting! Moody's in its prominent location should be painted before next year's competition. The Tullow Civic Offices are coming along well and will be a fine modern addition to the town. The colourful displays outside Garden Haven and Tullow Florists were greatly admired. The

attractive ironwork grill to the top of the shopfront of the latter was admired and it was pleasing to see its retention. The Bank of Ireland in its prominent location on the Square looked quite fresh. The churches and abbey are marvellous heritage assets to have in the town. Do discourage curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional variety such as a fabric awning. The Community College looked well with its attractively maintained grounds.

Landscaping:

Attractive landscaped areas were noted in a number of locations throughout the town. Ensure, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, that you don't develop an over-reliance on floral displays! Permanent planting will achieve year round effect so it is important that these are taken on board, in addition to the colourful window boxes and hanging baskets throughout the town. Planting along approach roads was greatly admired, as was the landscaped area by the 1916 monument on the Dublin Road and attractive planting on the Ardattin Road.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have certainly been working hard in this category of the competition. The green flag flew proudly outside the school and the energy saving seminar for visiting schools is a fine initiative to have. The adjudicator was also interested to note the school's participation in the construction of bat and bird boxes. Many thanks for the inclusion of your nature leaflet which made very interesting reading. Your decision to concentrate your efforts on the riverbank of the Slaney is a sensible one, as is your work in relation to ongoing maintenance of wildlife habitats in your work programme. The wildflower initiative in the Abbey graveyard is a commendable one and the practice of leaving felled trees by the riverside to foster wildlife is a very interesting and laudible one.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been higher. A number of papers were evident along the Carlow Road, in particular at the junction of the Castledermot Road and more litter was strewn along the Dublin Road in a number of locations. Indeed, quite a level of litter was evident throughout the town and along laneways.

Tidiness:

Try to ensure that the extensive areas of fencing on the Carlow side of the town are replaced or supplemented with stone walling or indigenous hedging of beech or hawthorn. Otherwise, creepers growing up the fence may achieve a similar softening effect. In your submission, you mention problems with regard to the recycling areas. Hopefully this will be resolved in the not too distant future, particularly due to your participation in the new Waste Club Initiative scheme. There is a new award in the competition for suitably presented and located recycling areas, which should be borne in mind for next year's entry. Do discourage the practice of fly posting, as it gives roadsides a very cluttered appearance. An attractive stone outbuilding on the Dublin Road was noted and admired and would be a marvellous restoration project. Weed control was a distinct problem in the vicinity of the Courthouse and looked most unfortunate. Litter was also evident in this location, and the forecourt area was in need of re-surfacing. Quite a lot of dereliction was still evident, despite the recent levels of development on the town.

Residential Areas:

There is much evidence of expansion and ongoing development in this area. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, keep pressure on developers to ensure that their estates are landscaped to a standard that reflects the levels achieved by existing ones such as Slaney View Drive with its marvellous grassy banks. Unfortunately, its timber fence was broken in places and should be fixed. The attractive houses with well maintained gardens on the Dublin Road side of the town were greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better, although allowances were made due to the ongoing residential developments taking place throughout! On the Carlow Road the attractive planting by the welcome sign was admired, as was the additional landscaped area at the junction with the Castledermot Road. On the Dublin Road weed control was a problem at kerbsides and this road was rather overgrown - so much so that yellow warning signage was not visible!

General Impression:

Tullow is a busy town with its own unique character and charm. It has achieved much in recent years and hopefully will continue to do so into the future. Good luck with all your future endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

An amazing amount of new building has appeared along by the riverside since this adjudicator was last in Tullow and commendably it is all of bold contemporary design. The Civic offices and library were particularly admired. The old stone museum nearby illustrates how old and new can happily coexist. The river is clearly of great amenity value. Many large yards and forecourts, some with poor boundaries, could have been tidier, particularly on the Carlow road. While the newer road signs were fine some older ones needed attention. The colourful streetscape contributed much but some shabby buildings and those with unsympathetic canopies tended to detract. The square below the Bank of Ireland is a well proportioned urban space which could be much better enjoyed without carparking. The residential areas were for the most part well presented. The grass verges and green areas similarly looked well but the approach roads were mixed in standard. A little litter was noted on the Enniscorthy road but exceptional planting on this road created a good impression. We look forward to returning next year.