

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Youghal**

Ref: **625**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **243**

Category: **E**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	
The Built Environment	40	33	
Landscaping	40	35	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	
Litter Control	40	31	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	25	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	
General Impression	10	8	
TOTAL MARK	300	243	

Overall Developmental Approach:

This is a rapidly developing seaside town and there is a general air of progress in the vicinity of the town. Such progress and development makes the task of the Tidy Towns Committee all the more relevant in a town like Youghal. The extensive support data submitted with the entry demonstrates the importance of the Tidy Towns project in the community. As is outlined in the supporting data, there is a need for a priority approach at this stage. With the amount of work being undertaken it is wise to approach these various task on a priority basis. The programme being undertaken by the Tidy Towns Group is ambitious and is enhancing the town considerably.

The Built Environment:

There is a wide range of impressive buildings throughout the town, many of which are of a historic nature. In general these buildings are well presented and form an important aspect of the town's heritage. The Clock Gate Tower is a magnificent dominant feature of the town and is well adorned with colourful flower containers. The premises of Youghal International College is well maintained and presented. The building of South Abbey National School which is undergoing some renovation work at present is a most interesting building. The church buildings in the town contribute significantly to the overall built heritage of the town - the Catholic church of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Strand is a fine impressive building. The Church of Ireland church of St. Mary's is a lovely building and along with the adjoining cemetery is beautifully presented. Also the Methodist church is an attractive brick building. The premises of Youghal Visitor Centre is well presented. The Town Hall

is a fine premises and is excellently maintained. The Youghal Lifeboat Station is a fine premises and the ship's anchor located nearby is an appropriate feature. The building of Gaelscoil Chorain Eochail is also nicely presented as was the premises of Loretto Convent. The Garda Station is well presented but the finger post on the nearby street for the station is in need of repainting. Also at the time of adjudication a letter was missing from "League of the Cross Hall" in Catherine Street. The premises of Youghal Credit Union were well presented. Also the premises of Youghal Community Centre were very attractive.

Landscaping:

There are many examples of good landscape work throughout the town. Landscaping at Dr. Kennedy Place was very colourful. The landscaping work which has been carried out along the Breton Road looks well. At the roundabout at the Waterford side of town there is excellent and well maintained landscaping work here. The tree planting carried out along the road at the Waterford end looks well but in some stretches here there was very high grass and weed growth and this would need to be attended to, The landscaping in the Millennium Park is excellent. The mature landscaping at Keane Park looked well and this is a most pleasant area. There has been some excellent landscaping work carried out in many of the residential areas throughout the town. In the 1798 Memorial Park - Pairc Glas Chuimhneachain 1798 - this is colourful, tasteful and attractive landscaping and this is in a prominent area of the town. There is very attractive flower planting near the car park in the vicinity of the old railway station. There was also colourful flower tubs in place here. The initiative which has been taken by the Tidy Towns Group in organising "Youghal in Bloom" is an excellent one. This is a most positive development and no doubt has contributed significantly to the many colourful areas which are now to be seen throughout the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The community is fortunate in that there is good habitat in the vicinity for various species of wildlife. Keane Park is an excellent and mature amenity area. The "Wildlife Wonders of Youghal" explanatory display boards are a very worthwhile initiative and the contents are both informative and educational. Likewise similar explanatory boards are in place along Breton road. The Slob Estuary area will be an enormous asset for wildlife in the area and is an excellent amenity for the town's population and for visitors. The landscaping work carried out in the Millennium Garden of Time will also prove to be attractive in time for some wildlife species.

Litter Control:

Containing litter will undoubtedly remain a challenge for Youghal, the same as it is for all communities but obviously the problem is greater for communities where there is a large scale development taking place. Generally overall the litter situation seems to have improved since the earlier assessment made by the Anti-Litter League which is separate from though not unrelated to the Tidy Towns Competition. There was some litter in the water area/globe in the Millennium Park. Meanwhile in the nearby children's play area there was no litter visible. There was however some litter visible in the vicinity of the public library. The entrance to Youghal TC depot was tidy and free of litter. Generally speaking in the area of business premises along the main streets of the town there was only limited litter. The beach area did have some litter but for a busy time of year and a popular beach the problem could have been worse, that is not to say it could have been better. There was a considerable amount of litter in the car parking area provided near the old railway premises. One or two litter containers here were overflowing.

Tidiness:

There was generally a good level of tidiness throughout the town. The area in the vicinity of Perks Family Fun Centre was quite tidy. Also the area in the vicinity of the Dog Track was tidy but a large commercial site in this vicinity (possibly a former filling station) was quite untidy with considerable weed growth etc. The entrance to Cumann Luthchleas Gael na hEochaille was tidy and clean. The promenade area in the vicinity of the beach was quite tidy. Streets throughout the town such as

Friar St. and Chapel Lane were quite tidy. Also the area in the vicinity of the Regal Cinema was very tidy. The immediate area of the public library could have been tidier. The pier area was generally tidy. The Market Square area was also very tidy as was The Mall area.

Residential Areas:

The standard generally in residential areas throughout the town was good. Like many other towns at present there is substantial residential development taking place in Youghal, for example that at Ardan na Mara. At Meadow Valley there is a residential development but the very high grass and weed growth at nearby junction should be attended to. Houses and gardens at Knockaverry were well presented as were those at Shanavine. Residential area at Dysart Grove and Dun na Mara were also nicely presented; green areas at the latter were very well maintained. The Carleton Village area was tidy. Houses and gardens at North Abbey Terrace were well maintained. Also the residential areas of O' Reilly's Terrace and Gallaghers Terrace were also well presented. The Dominic Collins Place was very neatly maintained as was O' Neill-Crowley Street.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The colourful signs for Youghal Heritage Town at the Cork and Waterford approach roads is impressive. The latter approach would need to be improved, grass and weed growth along kerbs etc. The Dungourney approach road was well maintained. However at the junction for the entrance to Quarry Road - this area was very overgrown and untidy. The attractive stone sign for this road was almost completely concealed with overgrowth and this would need to be attended to. The cemetery of the North Abbey was well maintained. The lovely old ruin of the old Dominican Friary which is located in the cemetery is most impressive and is well preserved. The grotto in the vicinity of the South Abbey National School is very nicely maintained as is the grotto across from the Dog Track. A lovely in the town is St. Coran's Well - Tobar Chorain Noafa - Tobar Beannaithe. It is a lovely project and is being excellently maintained. The planting at the entrance to the well is tastefully carried out. There are several traffic signs throughout the town which are in need of cleaning and or repainting (e.g. sign for Garda Station already referred to). Some seating in the Millennium Park would need to be repainted. The Children's Play area near the Park was very tidy and excellently maintained.

General Impression:

Youghal is a fine heritage town and much is being done through the Tidy Towns Competition to enhance the town overall. The Tidy Towns Group deserves the support of the entire community and of all the relevant bodies. The Tidy Towns Group has ambitious plans but further progress will be made if the effort is maintained and if problems are undertaken on a priority basis. A very good foundation now exists for further advancement in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Considerable progress is being made in Youghal. The "Investing in Heritage" document is comprehensive and both takes stock of issues and offers suggestions. However there are some fundamental issues such as litter control, standards of street side houses and businesses and maintenance of public areas that in themselves prompt the answers. Litter, while improved, needs further attention. The recycle bins at the waterfront (skips) were overflowing, people were leaving their materials by the side of the skip and the wind was blowing it about. The steps from the clock Tower were littered. There has been a good improvement over the years in business premises and there are many attractive examples – further progress in this will be welcome. Railings and seats at the back of the 1798 park need attention to paint and repairs. The old Carnegie library building and some of the four story buildings opposite need attention. The attractive containerised summer bedding through the town looks spectacular and well done for these great efforts. The roundabout planting is excellent; St Mary's College Grounds Park is a lovely addition to the town. Trees along Breton road continue to improve and it is suggested that where needed replacements should be planted. Both the slob and the Quarry are very valuable assets for wild life appreciation. The 1798

Park while colourful seems to lack impetus due to the flatness of the overall appearance. The millennium park children's play area is very good but the adjoining garden is a little drab.