

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Greenore**

Ref: **393**

County: **Louth**

Mark: **239**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	239	235

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Greenore back to the 2005 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the Architect's Drawing of the suggested improvements to the village. The adjudicator is delighted to read that there appears to be a community commitment to keep the Victorian atmosphere of the village through appropriate street furniture and other improvements. The Port works appear to integrate to an extent into the village but the heavy traffic by the village obviously causes difficulties for the community.

Apart from the Plan no 3 / 5 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan was provided for the adjudicator. All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that you intend to do each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4/5 key projects. The Architect's Plans will form the basis for the above plan and you will find the strategic approach most helpful.

The Built Environment:

The village of Greenore has a wonderful atmosphere that comes totally from the build environment of the two streets and the nearby water. The adjudicator noted the old Victorian building in the Port

area and wondered what the future plans were for this building. Unfortunately no documentation was provided to indicate if dialogue with the Port authorities was under way. This issue was also raised in the 2004 Tidy towns report. Practically all the buildings in the village were well presented, however the Beach Cafe would be improved by painting. It was not clear whether this building was still in use or not. The view from the Golf Club of the long blue coloured corrugated iron roof would be greatly improved if that building could be re-painted in a colour that might match with the brick buildings on the right hand side of this view. The beautiful stone of the terraced buildings gives a beautiful warm tone to the main street.

Landscaping:

The grass at the promenade was excellently presented, however the grass needs to be cut by hand from the top of the kerb stones. Superb landscaping was noted at the entrance to the village and at the road junction to the Promenade. The landscaping at the beginning of Euston Street has matured beautifully. The trees along the left hand side of the approach road by the Golf Course are beautiful and provide a very dignified entrance to Greenore. The hanging baskets and window boxes provide a great sense of colour and had not been over done, as can easily happen. The old Greenore National School, now a public house looked well, but the projecting sign on the school building is a little unfortunate - is it really necessary? Attractive grass and shrubs was noted also on Angelsea Street,

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

The water side area was reasonable free of litter and the village itself also had a good level of litter control.

It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play and they must all be congratulated on their success to date.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

Tidiness:

At the Promenade some repairs are necessary to the long white wall. Also at the exit from the car park here there is a small triangular grass area between the white wall and a much lower wall. This area did not look very tidy and perhaps the wall could be removed to improve this part of the Promenade.

The presentation of the Port area was raised in the 2004 Report and the adjudicator wonders if an on-going open dialogue has been put in Place with the port authorities.

Residential Areas:

The properties in the village itself were all excellently presented, many with flower displays. Other private houses especially on the approach to Greenore by the Golf Course were beautifully presented and some fine landscaping was noted here.

If you have not already done so your Committee might talk to your Local Authority to discuss the issue of building design by future builders who may develop in the area of the village. Perhaps this can best be delivered through the Planning Conditions process. It is essential in the view of the adjudicator it is essential that all future development that will impact on the village is designed and landscaped in such a way that the new development will compliment the village and not detract from the Victorian core.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Carlingford approach road was beautifully presented with fine trees and excellently prepared grass areas on the right hand side. The Promenade area also looked really well. However the corner at the Beach Cafe needs a lot of improvement in presentation.

General Impression:

Carlingford is a really beautiful village so full of character. The key to the future lies in the successful integration of the needs of the Port with the future environmental needs of the community. Dialogue, regular and on-going here is essential.

Second Round Adjudication:

