

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniscrone**

Ref: **84**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **198**

Category: **B**

Date: **23/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	27
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	198	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the committee for the comprehensive documentation provided with the entry form - maps, photographs, Action Plan. The documentation made it quite clear that you have had a very busy year and have undertaken many tasks especially in planting. You document on the plans for the period 2005 - 2009 illustrates your ambitious vision for the Enniscrone of the future.

You seem to be working very closely with the various agencies that impact on Tidy owns and that is essential. The adjudicator wonders if there is a Local Authority Development Plan for Enniscrone. There is a feeling in the village that more co-ordination of development activities as part of a planned approach would bring great benefits the the village. You might raise this issue with your Local Authority.

The very many holiday homes in the village puts great pressure on the overall task of best presentation, and this is acknowledged.

The Built Environment:

Low stone and concrete walls are a characteristic feature of Enniscrone as best seen on the two main approach roads. In overall terms the built environment in the village has a mix of some good buildings in design terms and some more mundane development. The Fire Station as a modern

approach to design sits comfortably into the Easky approach to the village. Waterpoint is another development of a modern design that is appropriate for its site. Crazy paving as a frontage does not fit in with the tone of the village, and reflects a design approach from some years ago.

Quite a number of poor signs were noted in Enniscrone, and a number of properties are in need of repainting. At the National School the steel railings are in need of repair and painting. Could they be painted in red or blue? In terms of painting the Church spire also needs attention in the near future, as does Enniscrone Motors. Watch out for gable walls as quite a number also need to be painted.

A few derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built environment of your village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

Some poor signage on shop fronts is also evident in contrast to the B. Hopkins premises illustrating that very simple signs can be very effective.

The Pig feature is in a sorry state with the storage of beer barrels here, and long grass choking the paved area.

The provision of kerbing from Leisureland to the Playground should be considered as a method of defining the road edge and grass area.

Landscaping:

You have done excellent work for this year's competition in terms of new landscaping and the maintenance of existing developments. It appears that you are putting an emphasis on flowers and this is strongly welcomed. The new amenity and planted area at the Promenade will look well when completed. However the upright rusty steel barriers need to be repainted and some weed growth is coming through the tarmac. The trees and planting at the church looked very colourful and this is just one area where landscaping has brought much colour to the village.

At the river the grass on both banks needs to be cut on a frequent basis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for wildlife development are encouraging. 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 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.

The river in your town has excellent potential to become a really important natural amenity. You should start by organising a major river clean up. Landscaping of the river bank areas should then follow, with the provision perhaps of appropriate seating.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was quite good considering that the visitor season was underway. Some litter was noted on the Easkey approach road. The monthly clean ups and the Workshop on composting are excellent initiatives. The new Litter Awareness signs were noted and look effective.

Tidiness:

There are a number of untidy incidental small open spaces which are overgrown and are quite untidy looking. Weedkiller has been used in a number of places but dead weeds must then be removed. Very weed growth was noted at the old church building by the gates. Watch out also for weed growth at the base of walls, kerbs and buildings. The part of the village in the Leisureland area looked quite untidy with long grass in some gardens. The area of the Pier was very poorly presented and has the appearance of an area that has received little attention from any agency. A derelict building was noted here, rusting trailers, broken kerbs and bad weed growth. The toilets though functional are located in a rather grim building. Enniscrone deserves better.

Residential Areas:

There is a large mix of well presented older properties and newer properties many of which are also well presented with attractive landscaped gardens. The mix of holiday homes is enormous. Overall the presentation under this marks category was reasonably good. Your work in Nephin View estate, and Bayview Court is noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two main approach roads were very well presented and the landscaping here is mature and add much to the appearance of the road verges. Some village sign poles need to be painted and do make sure that grass is cut back from the top of kerbing. The road surfacing of the Ballina approach needs to be improved.

Some very untidy short narrow lanes were noted in the village and these need urgent attention to remove long grass and weed growth.

General Impression:

Enniscrone is an attractive village the traditional character of which is under pressure from housing development. Well done to your committee who are doing such good work!

Second Round Adjudication: