

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-On-Suir**

Ref: **138**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **214**

Category: **E**

Date: **13/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	20	23
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Carrick on Suir Development Association is certainly a large one given its membership of twenty-five (including those on sub-committees). Perhaps you should consider dividing into sub-committees in order to concentrate your effort on different areas of work within the town? These sub-committees could then return to the main committee on a fortnightly basis, for example, to report their progress. The town is fortunate in regard to its wealth of architectural and historical heritage including Ormonde Castle, Ormonde Bridge, St. Molleran's Church and the West Gate among others. The adjudicator was interested to see your documentation, including the brochure enticing people to come and live in the town. Your numerous colour coded maps were most useful on the day. Your five year work programme ongoing till 2008 is a sensible one. The adjudicator was disappointed to note your problems regarding traffic congestion and it is to be hoped that you will get the bypass soon in order to alleviate the problem.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings such as the Fire Station, Post Office and banks looked well. Some fine vernacular buildings are for sale on Kickham Street. Do ensure that they are sensitively developed when purchased, in order to maintain their architectural integrity. The Presentation Primary School looked well, although the pedestrian entrance to the convent appeared quite flaky and will need attention before next year's competition. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that the West Gate still bore evidence of graffiti which is, presumably, that mentioned in both last year's report and year

that of the previous year! The Garda Station looked well, although the boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition and the car park would benefit from some softening landscaping. Commercial buildings generally looked good - of note the Park Inn on New Street which was very fresh, Butler's Florist's which was very cheerful and Tir na n'Og which also looked extremely fresh. An attractive old garage is for sale on New Street and its restoration by means of maintaining its vernacular traditional heritage would be most welcome. The Sibin should be painted before next year's competition, as it appears quite flaky. Do discourage plastic projecting beer signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Stokes and Quirks estate agents looked fresh but the old technical building in which its located looked to be in need of some attention and weeds were apparent to its gutters. The boundary wall to the Christian Brothers School looked quite grubby on the Waterford side of the town.

Landscaping:

This is a category of the competition at which you obviously excel and you are rightly proud of your Town Gardener, Evan Walsh! On the Fair Green area, the new playground equipment was admired and was in good use on the day, but work here seemed to be somewhat incomplete- possibly the grass had been seeded but not yet grown. The attractive stone wall surround was admired as were the new trees. However, a couple of these latter appeared to be dead and should be replaced. A large amount of litter was disappointingly apparent at their base. Another landscaped space opposite the Town Park had yet to be completed and come into its own. The attractive hedging, planting and railings to front of the New Street car park were greatly admired. Perhaps you could consider a similar treatment for the entrance area of car park off Main Street which looked rather regrettable. Even if this area were to be tidied up somewhat by means of building entrance piers etc. it would look much better. Shelley and Purcell have an attractive lavender garden at their entrance on New Street. The Sean Healy Park was also incomplete on the day. The adjudicator is looking forward to its evolution in the not too distant future. There is scope for landscaping at the playing fields and handball centre as its forecourt area looks quite unfortunate at the moment. The pots, planters and hanging baskets throughout the town looked extremely well on the day. The Sean Kelly Sports Centre with its grassy banks, trees and flowers was well presented, in terms of its landscaping as was the Esso Station opposite.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an area of the competition which you could develop further. You have barely mentioned in your application form and comprehensive submission your plans in this regard. Do read the Tidy Towns Handbook (also available on the Department of the Environment's website) for ideas in further developing this aspect of the competition in terms of projects that you can undertake. Further development of the Glen River Habitat and your bird feeding station are looked forward to. A wildlife information board was noted on the Kilkenny Road.

Litter Control:

Litter is an endemic problem throughout the town - along approach roads and strewn along main streets and in parks and green spaces. This is a distinct problem that seems to have been ongoing for a number of years to judge from last year's report! Quite a lot of litter was evident in the vicinity of the Town Park and on Waterford Road, particularly outside Scoil Mhuire, at Castle Park, particularly at its entrance area and also at Main Street. These were by far the worst hit areas but the litter was evident throughout the town! Your voluntary clean ups for litter are commendable but further - more drastic - action is evidently necessary - do you have a Litter Warden? You have unfortunately lost valuable marks due to this problem.

Tidiness:

The Clairin Well could be made more welcoming, in its appearance. A passer-by would barely know

if it was there if he/she didn't go right up to look for it! It too was unfortunately filled with litter. Do discourage advertising hoardings as they can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance - a very grubby one on the Waterford Road created a bad impression. Weed control was a problem at the base of the new stone wall at the Fair Green, at the Carrick on Suir Business Centre and near the recycling bins on the Waterford Road. Recycling areas were noted in a number of locations around town. These were generally quite neat in appearance but do try to discourage dumping of boxes as this was apparent at two of the locations - on the Waterford Road and at New Street car park. Perhaps you could consider a landscaping project at your recycling areas in order to provide a more discreet screening for the bins so that they blend in more seamlessly with their surroundings. They possibly could then be considered next year for the recycling area award. Do discourage flyposting, as it can give approach roads a rather messy appearance.

Residential Areas:

The standard of houses in estates and individual houses both in the town centre and along approach roads was generally quite good. Houses along O'Mahony Avenue looked well and an attractive bed filled with roses etc. was greatly admired. The vernacular style houses and more traditional houses on Castle Street were admired. An attractive garden visible through an archway on Main Street created a good impression. There are a number of new housing estates - do encourage them to be landscaped to the same high standard as the rest of the town. One or two of the houses on New Street were in need of attention. The traditional vertical hung slate to a gable at Castle Lane was admired, however a derelict house and rusty barriers and gates on the same laneway created a bad impression.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Further out the Clonmel Road the grass verges appeared quite overgrown and one or two papers were evident. Weeds were evident at the bases of walls. The standard was better further into the town with attractive grass verges, permanent planting and relatively new trees and hedging. Stable Lane is among many other laneways in town ripe for redevelopment - in particular those leading down to the quays from Main Street. The quays area looked well with new planting, stone walls and attractive seating to the riverside. In terms of signage, directional signs on Main Street appeared quite flaky. Along the Wexford Road, new trees and permanent planting were admired. Again, it was rather more overgrown further out, perhaps the wonderful grassy banks could be sown with wildflowers in order to give a meadow-like effect to them. The welcome sign on this side was rather obscured by a new tree so possibly it should be moved? Street furniture such as benches in the Town Park were in need of attention, as they were quite flaky. New items of modern street furniture were greatly admired, such as stainless steel bollards and perforated metal seating. Hopefully your problems regarding traffic flow will be resolved in the not too distant future.

General Impression:

Carrick on Suir is set in some magnificent scenery, with the backdrop of the mountains behind. It has the potential to do extremely well in the competition, given the fact that it has all the necessary ingredients to succeed - ongoing progress is being made. However, you will have to resolve your ongoing distinct litter problem!