

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Stradbally**

Ref: **369**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **275**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	28	27
Litter Control	40	38	38
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	37
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	275	270

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form, for the photographs and for the map all of which added to the pleasure of visiting Stradbally again this year. What a lovely atmosphere prevails throughout the village- the result of many years of dedication and work by your committee your residents, your sponsors, Local Authority, FAS and the many other State Bodies who give you their support. There is obviously a tremendous community spirit in Stradbally and the evidence of this was to be seen on adjudication day. Your proposals from 2005 and 2006 are very practical and straightforward and the wish is that many other centres would follow your example in this respect. It is appreciated that the work involved is ongoing during the summer but do try, in as far as it is possible, to have the bulk of the work done before June of each year in time for the first adjudication. For a village of its size your committee is obviously very strong in terms of membership which again is an indication of the interests which your residents have in the planning, development and maintenance of their environment.

The Built Environment:

If one is to judge by the presentation of the Churches, School, Credit Union building, GAA Centre, and Handball Alley, there is obviously a tremendous civic spirit in the village which is to be highly praised. The Grotto and Cemetery are being well maintained as are the lovely walls which are a delightful feature. The Public Toilet looked resplendent in its new coat of paint. However, as mentioned last year, the interior could do with additional upgrading. Lamp standards throughout the

village add greatly to the overall appearance as does the condition of commercial premises which are being maintained to a very high standard. Improvements at Ballyvooney Cove were noted and Stradbally Cove is a lovely facility to have so close to the village. The Village Green is just delightful. It has been beautifully maintained and reflects great credit on your community and indeed on your children who seem to be enjoying it very much on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

What a wonderful effort this year. Around every corner were flower beds, containerised planting, window boxes, tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and beautifully maintained green areas of which the Village Green and its sculptures is a shining example. Approach roads, the area surrounding the Handball Alley, Nunnery Lane, the Water Garden, Church Lane and indeed the many other side areas and streets were just a blaze of colour which reflects great credit on your committee, your FAS workers and voluntary groups. The new name stones were greatly admired and are a lovely addition to the overall effort. The Water Garden and the new Wildflower Garden are, indeed, nature's gift and the further embellishment of the result of your hard work. Sincerest congratulations again on a wonderful presentation.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Wildflower Garden and the Watergarden greatly enhance the efforts you are making under this heading as indeed do the Interpretation Boards at Ballyvooney Cove and Stradbally Cove. Unfortunately on adjudication day the schools were closed so there was not an opportunity to actually see the bird tables but, on the basis of what you have in your report, these will be a lovely addition to the total wildlife effort and all concerned are to be congratulated for it. If you have not already done so you might consider publishing the results of your wildlife audit (as mentioned in last years report) in leaflet form which could be interesting for your school children, for your residents and indeed for your visitors. You are doing excellent work and are to be commended for it.

Litter Control:

The village was totally litter free on adjudication day. There was however some minor evidence of litter in the Stradbally Cove area but on the basis of the overall effort the adjudicator felt that this would be dealt with promptly.

Tidiness:

There is a huge amount of building work taking place in Stradbally. The result is that there is some untidiness but this will pass and has been allowed for in adjudication. Your Bring Bank and its surrounding area are being very well maintained. The village is very tidy indeed and reflects great credit on your commercial premises and your residents for its overall appearance.

Residential Areas:

The vast majority of housing estates in Stradbally were visited on adjudication day. All are being well maintained and many have some lovely open spaces which are also being well looked after. As the village grows it will be important that these open spaces are constantly monitored as otherwise it may get to a stage where local residents may not be able to maintain them due to the number involved. This is a matter perhaps which you might discuss with your Local Authority and with FAS.

The development of the thatched houses estate is continuing apace and, when completed, will certainly be a feature of the village. Both terraced and individual houses again looked splendid this year and, almost without exception, had wonderful displays either in garden form or in tubs of flowers, window boxes and hanging baskets. This type of individual effort is most important in the competition and all concerned are to be congratulated on it. In this connection Cove Cottage was much admired and is a lovely feature at that end of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Great credit is due to Waterford County Council for the work they are doing in Stradbally. Road surfaces and pathways are being very well maintained and approach roads were very nicely presented with grass verges having been mown or strimmed. For the visitor this type of presentation creates a nice impression and sets the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

Another lovely presentation this year. Congratulations to all concerned. Maintain your high level of maintenance but also keep planning for the future. As mentioned in last year's report it is this type of planning and attention to detail which will get you additional marks in the competition. You are to be congratulated on your Silver Medal Award last year as well as your "highly commended" in the County Awards. Keep up the wonderful effort and greater success, will undoubtedly, come your way.

Second Round Adjudication:

Once again Stradbally was presented by and large to the high standard to which we have become accustomed. The expansive areas of freshly mown grass both in the village centre and on the approaches looked beautifully rich following heavy rain. The many stonewalls were admired. A few laneways were not quite up to standard. Most residential areas were excellent. The thatched houses throughout are an essential element but it is considered that there are now probably enough. The backs of the new houses on the hill with a mixture of thatch and slate are unfortunate. A little litter was noted on the road leading to the RC Church. Each approach to the village is quite distinctive. The obvious great community spirit and level of coordination of the people of Stradbally is exemplary.