

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tramore**

Ref: **265**

County: **Waterford**

Mark: **237**

Category: **E**

Date: **04/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 31 | 30 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 35 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 28 | 28 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 237 | 232 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your entry form would seem to indicate that your Environment and Tidy Towns group, in the main, act as co-ordinators of environmental activity in Tramore while, at the same time carrying out some specific projects yourselves. In a town the size of Tramore this is an excellent arrangement and it is gratifying to note that for your efforts you have the support of Waterford County Council, Tramore Town Council and SuperValu. This aspect of your work was covered in detail by last years adjudicator in a very comprehensive report and therefore is not intended to cover the same ground again this year other than to say that following is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in conjunction with that report.

The Built Environment:

Tramore is very well endowed with public buildings, all are listed in last years report and were again visited this year. Almost without exception they are being extremely well maintained and were well presented on adjudication day. In addition the adjudicator was impressed with the facilities of the Tramore GAA Club, Tramore AFC, Tramore Tennis Club and Splashworld, all of which are a wonderful addition to the social life in the town. Commercial premises again looked very well as indeed did the three major hotels – pride of place on this occasion going to O' Sheas Hotel which was looking quiet resplendent in a new coat of paint. In this respect the public and private fabric of the town is well looked after and reflects great credit on your Local Authorities and voluntary and commercial interests. Evidence of further commercial building taking place, particularly at the end of the Prom,

would indicate that more has yet to come. Work on the Donerail was much admired and the restored cannon is a great addition to the complex. Hopefully the problem of the old Railway Station will solve itself in the near future. In terms of unoccupied or derelict buildings – you will be aware that Local Authorities have certain rights in these matters and if you have not already done so you could pursue the problems involved with them. In spite of the provision of the excellent Coastguard Station the area immediately in front of Newtown Cove is becoming somewhat derelict. This is not helped by the incidence of graffiti and littering which was very evident on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

Where presented – landscaping throughout the town and on the approaches to Tramore looked very nice and is being well maintained. No solution appears to have been found regarding the possible removal of the enormous European Union signs at the lovely picnic area on the Waterford approach. Throughout the town tubs of flowers, hanging baskets and window boxes create a lovely atmosphere and in the case of the latter those on the poles outside the Majestic Hotel were much admired. Tree planting on the flat sides of the by pass road were observed and looked very well. However enormous banks on the early part of the road are completely over grown and will need some form of landscaping. Perhaps this is in the pipeline and, if so the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results next year. Roundabouts have improved tremendously over the last 12 months and great credit is due to Waterford County Council for this. As mentioned in last years report and with the advent of an extraordinary amount of house building in the town, open spaces will have to be monitored very carefully both by the Local Authority and residents – an enormous task. The grottos are being very well maintained again this year and reflect great credit on your local community. In particular the one at the corner of Kennedy Park and Marian Terrace deserves a special mention. Landscaping at Tramore House is being nicely maintained but again, and not unlike last year, the lake contained evidence of rubbish and litter which is obviously being thrown over the surrounding wall on a regular basis.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your Group does not appear to have undertaken any particular project under this heading but perhaps this will come in time. However your work on the beach and on the Donerail certainly is a step in the right direction and you are to be commended for it. This section in the Tidy Towns Handbook may spark off further initiatives for you in the foreseeable future.

Litter Control:

For a town of its size the litter situation seems to be under control. The center of the town was practically litter free but there was some evidence of littering at Newtown Cove, the bus depot and, as already mentioned, in the lake in Tramore House. The lack of litter on the Prom and the beach reflects great credit on all concerned.

Tidiness:

There is inevitably still some untidiness due to the amount building which is taking place but this has been allowed for in the adjudication. Otherwise the town was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner which reflects greatly the excellent work which you are doing as a Group. In this respect your Local Authority, commercial interests and residents are to be congratulated. For a busy seaside town this type of environmental presentation is to be lauded.

Residential Areas:

Many of the housing estates in Tramore were visited and were found, in the main, to be very well maintained with open spaces being well looked after. There were one or two exceptions particularly in relation to the very new ones but, no doubt, this will improve with time. Individual houses also looked well and many had lovely gardens in full bloom which were a joy to see on adjudication day. If you are not already doing so you should work very closely with your Residents Associations on the whole question of landscaping and the maintenance of open spaces which, at this stage, form a very important aspect of environmental preservation in the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new bypass road which services many of the new housing estates is a tremendous asset. The new entrance to Tramore Golf Club is very impressive. There is some element of untidiness on this road but it is expected that this will pass in time. Approach roads are being well maintained and great credit is due again to your Local Authority for the excellent work which they are doing in this respect. Road surfaces are very good and pathways are being well maintained also.

General Impression:

In view of the enormous growth in population in Tramore over the last number of years comments made in last years report regarding general maintenance, open spaces, roads and pathways and the beach area are still applicable and could become a serious problem which needs to be planned for. Since last year excellent work has been carried out by Local Authorities and various other interested groups and all the indications are that this will continue into the foreseeable future. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Tramore again next year to see further progress made.

Second Round Adjudication:

Regrettably litter was less under control during our second visit. There was some fly posting on the Waterford approach. The initial roundabout encountered was particularly admired. The older parts of the town have a wonderful ambience but somehow this has been lost during the recent rapid expansion. It is suggested that you identify all the large open yards, forecourts and carparks and seek to raise them all to an equal high standard. The established and new landscaping areas are highly commended and your tireless work on the Doneraile is particularly laudable. The new residential areas generally appeared well cared for and the abundance of fresh paint contributed on a grey wet afternoon to the resort atmosphere associated with Tramore.