

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Delgany**

Ref: **359**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **225**

Category: **C**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	225	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the substantial amount of information included with the entry form. The project material with many photographs and contributions from various members gives a very good insight into the work of the committee in Delgany. The problems and the achievements are well documented. Congratulations on achieving so much under such difficult circumstances. Delgany has struggled successfully so far to retain its identity while so much development take place all around. The traffic in the village is alarming and makes life very difficult. The continued planning and routine maintenance work is all-important in keeping the character of Delgany alive.

The Built Environment:

The core of the village looks very well with the Delgany Inn, and Wicklow Arms and associated buildings being the predominant buildings. The Church of Ireland looks very well and this is a landmark building. The remainder of the business premises look well and contribute to the village needs. The school is very well presented and all the railings and fencing at the school are in very good condition as is also the carpark. The old school house also appears well. The Carmelite monastery is an attractive building. The tree planting in the front area of the monastery is very welcome, as the railings are not particularly imposing. The stonewalls of the area form an important part of the character of the village and the care and maintenance of these is important – some damage opposite the Delgany Inn to the wall hopefully will be repaired soon.

Landscaping:

The greatest contribution to the landscape in the village is from the range of mature trees - Eucalyptus - the smell of which is frequently associated with the village. There are also a number of other broadleaved mature trees. Gardens of houses at the centre of the village contribute greatly as well. These are much admired and flow onto the footpath in places. Your difficulties with the picnic area are acknowledged.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The designated walkways are a great idea and congratulations on developing these. The leaflets are valuable. The immediate area surrounding the village fortunately has a rich natural environment and the access and appreciation of this is vitally important. Projects to help further enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment would be helpful. The material presented is very useful and a great initiative. Involving school children in such projects is a very good idea, as they will gain so much from their exposure to their natural surrounds. The Glebe walk is beautiful except that it is now disrupted by the new housing development.

Litter Control:

Generally a good standard of litter control is present through the village and surrounds, Litter was spotted however on a number of locations while walking in the village and surrounds. Constant vigilance and campaigns to alert people to the value of keeping the place clean are all helpful.

Tidiness:

The village has a tidy appearance – this is troubled a little at the moment with the various building developments in progress. In many places the vegetation is overflowing onto the footpaths which is a difficulty and needs to be cut back, this would be much more unpleasant on a wet day. The overhauling of road verges is helpful and the work at the old graveyard represents a major achievement.

Residential Areas:

The many roadside residences look very well. Care of properties on the roadsides, their gardens and road frontage areas contribute very well to the overall appearance of the village. The housing estates are well landscaped. Tree planting and good care of open entrance greens and open spaces are all important in this regard. Convent Court looks well although this will take some time to mature.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As already stated the chief difficulty with the roads is the amount of traffic, the speed of cars coming around bends, the difficulty crossing the roads – all this suggests a major plan of traffic management and parking restrictions. This is well documented in your presentation and the importance is well understood. The surface of roads is patchy in places and especially at the verges. Footpaths are very narrow in places. New footpaths constructed are welcome.

General Impression:

Delgany is a green village. The pressures on the village require much consideration. An alert approach to planning applications is a key factor for the future as well as a resolution for the traffic problems. The committee is to be commended for their very frank assessment of the difficulties of their own village – without the realisation of this no progress could be made.

Second Round Adjudication:

Delgany is a most attractive village that had its first involvement with tourism over one hundred and fifty years ago. However one cannot help feeling that the village is being strangled by traffic and new development. On the day of 2nd round adjudication a number of buildings were being repainted and some properties in the village have used good solid colours that work well. The use of window boxes has added further colour but this has not been over done. A few very attractive older cottages were noted and these help to add further character to the village. A damaged roadside wall across the road from the Graveyard needs repair.