

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniskerry**

Ref: **182**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **238**

Category: **C**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	26	28
Tidiness	20	14	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	238	237

Overall Developmental Approach:

The comprehensive information supplied with the entry form gave a good insight into the aims, activities, achievements and challenges of the tidy towns committee in Enniskerry. The involvement of school children is an excellent idea with the many activities in relation to litter control and tidiness. Community involvement is of the utmost importance so that a cohesive approach can be made in the village. The photographs included with the entry form were helpful. Planning ahead for the next five years is so important and your plans are noted – perhaps more precise itemised details - for each year would focus the direction more clearly.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine landmark buildings in the village – for such a small village it is very rich in traditional buildings and diversity of style. The Carnegie Library is a gem. The schools and churches look very well. The business premises are extremely well presented and except for a couple of incidences painting and décor is of a very high standard. The pharmacy building is beautifully presented occupying such an important and large space. The Powerscourt Arms Hotel also looks well. Stone is a marvelous feature of the village and the many stonewalls lend great character – the best of which is the central monument area of the village. The restoration of the water feature would be an interesting project. To avoid traffic congestion it would be advisable to ban parking completely around this monument. There are beautiful houses right in the centre of the village with excellent roadside walls and gates, which contribute well to the overall appearance of the village centre.

Landscaping:

Enniskerry has many fine landscape features and this is one of the village's great strengths. The roses by the central monument are delightful as are the numerous hanging baskets and window boxes providing a beautiful sparkle of summer colour. The garden at the Carnegie Library is particularly attractive as is the garden at the Enniskerry Trading Company and the Village hall. The planting features at the Scalp entrance by the petrol station, on the Glencree road and at the Well are attractive. The Catholic Church grounds are especially beautiful and great credit is due for the care and attention given there as so many people enjoy this. The graveyard of the Church of Ireland is in very good condition it has taken much work to attain this standard. The backdrop of so many trees forms the perfect framework for the village landscape. Individual gardens along the roadside also contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village and a stroll through the various areas illustrates this. The entrance to the GAA grounds was admired and the adjoining hedge – also the roadside island verge opposite with well-mown grass and trees maturing well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Enniskerry has a marvellous opportunity to avail of the observation and appreciation of the wild life of the area. The Knocksink wood forms lovely strolling grounds and the pathways allow for ease of access to the riverside and woodland. The Bog Meadow has developed well; the peripheral path forms a delightful walk – although a little overgrown with nettles in places and wet underfoot. Having this walkway so close to the village centre and having an exit at the top road are very positive points. More information for the casual walker would be helpful. Many visitors to Enniskerry could avail of this asset. The entrance area by the sports courts is in poor condition at present but that no doubt relates to the work in progress.

Litter Control:

The efforts made with the race against waste are commendable and the active campaigns are very positive actions. The application for green flag and the accompanying involvements that such entails with the school children is very encouraging. Unfortunately litter continues to be a challenge in the village and surrounds and it was disappointing to find so many incidents of littering in and around the village. Small amounts of litter at the monument and along the village footpaths, dumped litter at a gateway beside Crimmins garage, serious deposit of litter at the Knocksink wood and some on the beautiful path by the side of the Church of Ireland. The recycle bins appear well used and the large number of litter bins – which are attractive and substantial are prominent.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance. As mentioned above the area by the sports pitches / youth community hall/ tennis courts is untidy – needing reseeding inside the gate, and proper finish around the tennis courts. The area by the recycle bins could be more attractively maintained. The underground cabling in the village centre is a great advantage. The newly grassed area above the village on the Kilgarron approach looks well and it would be nice to extend this to the oak tree beside the house named Valley House. A Buddleia plant growing from the roof of the toilets is unhelpful as are kerbside weeds in places (especially at Kilgarron) On the road along by Millfield estate it would be good to clear the area behind the wall under the trees and sow grass as it done at the part which forms the entrance to the estate. The plastic signs referred to last year by the adjudicator could well have related to the plastic ice cream cones on the pavements of which five was the count made today.

Residential Areas:

The Millfield estate is well tended with an attractive entrance well maintained. Housing at Kilgarron is well cared for generally. The roadside cottages look very attractive and are also kept very well.

Individual houses along the approach roads and right in the centre of the village contribute very well and each offers a good road frontage thereby enhancing the overview of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As stated above more traffic/ parking restriction would be welcome – for the few cars the parking facilitates at the monument a much better appearance and less clutter would result if no parking was allowed at this point. Similarly parking along in front of the Hotel is undesirable. The road surfaces in the village centre are fine but there is much patchiness along the approach from the petrol station. New footpaths were noted and some needing attention also. The cobblestone roadside drains are especially attractive and where these are revealed they form a marvelous asset. In places these are partially covered and the more recovery of these that can be done the better.

General Impression:

Enniskerry is a most attractive village and there is obviously a great pride of place in the village centre. The many visitors no doubt share responsibility for litter care and campaigns aimed at visitors may be a way to approach this. The shops presentation standard is much admired through the village.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a pleasure for the adjudicator to visit Enniskerry for 2nd round adjudication. For a village that has so many visitors and such high volumes of through traffic the standard of presentation in general terms was extremely high. However looking at Enniskerry in detail revealed two serious problem areas. The first is litter control. Quantities of litter was noted at Ploughman's Corner. It is a shame to have such a beautiful area so badly littered. The area behind the seat and behind the wall on the river side was also quite terrible. The area around the Monument was also littered. At the Bring Centre litter was again noted, and also in the car park here.

The second area of concern is the internal condition of the Toilet block. The condition of the Gents side of this building is quite deplorable in terms of overall presentation. The graffiti on the backs of the doors and walls is unacceptable. This building would be better demolished than left as a facility for visitors to Enniskerry. This must have your very early attention.

On a brighter note the Bog Meadow project looked well on the day of 2nd adjudication. It would be good to have an information panel at the beginning of the path explaining what the visitor should look out for. In some areas growth is beginning to come over the path and some mild trimming is required. This great amenity did not appear to be signposted and it is such a pity to keep it a secret!