

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennistymon**

Ref: **549**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	18	17
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry form, map, plan and other documentation. The Committee of six are to be congratulated for persevering over the years to improve and enhance Ennistymon. Much work has been accomplished and that you have brought a large percentage of the community with you it is obvious. However, we would suggest that the Committee try to expand as the approach of bringing others on board and challenging people by giving them responsibility for specific tasks has worked in other areas. Ennistymon is a town of great natural beauty and unique features which deserve to reach their potential. One hundred per cent of the community must help you in your efforts together with the statutory bodies especially the Clare County Council. In this regard we would suggest that you have a meeting with the Council and discuss the plan that you have drawn up for the years ahead and get a commitment from them to actively assist you in your endeavours. We would also suggest that you consider entering other competitions (if you have not already done so) such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

With regard to the built environment, like every town in Ireland at present, there is much building

going on in and around Ennistymon which is changing the landscape of the town considerably. What is to be welcomed is that a number of derelict buildings have now been sold or have "sale agreed" on them and hopefully the new purchasers of these will put them to use which will enhance the areas where they are situated. This is especially needed at the Cascades where three buildings adjacent to the entrance and the one extending right down to the riverside have now been sold. No doubt planning will ensure that this area is preserved as an amenity and the viewing point here is developed appropriately. Another premises on the main street opposite the archway entrance to the Cascades is at present being refurbished and it would appear that this premises should fit in well with the existing streetscape. The new fencing was noted near the picnic area which enhances this stretch of road. Also on the Lahinch approach the Church is an example to others and maintained in pristine condition. Scaffolding was noted at the very visible building which was a furniture store which was mentioned last year. Again, no doubt when work is finished here this street will benefit from any reconstruction work undertaken. The new vegetable stall in the Square was noted, which is an improved version of the old one. Also in the Square the the dress shop "Noinin" with its good design was noted. As mentioned there are many traditional style shops of interest in and around Ennistymon bringing great character to the town.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on the approach roads was admired and the picnic area used on the Lahinch Road. Unfortunately, here the table top that you were awaiting receipt from the quarry last year still has not arrived. Well done on organising a hanging basket competition – it is good to involve people in your endeavours throughout the year. The Cascade viewing area had a large puddle and a heap of sand in it on the day of adjudication and it was noticed that the trees are growing at the river bank obscuring any view of the waterfalls. The tree planting undertaken by you around the town was noticed and this should continue as any planting of trees or shrubs in appropriate locations leaves a legacy for future generations. Good native varieties of broadleaf are Chestnut, Ash, Beech, Sycamore and Lime.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With regard to wildlife, any planting you undertake comes under this heading. Also talks to schools together with seminars and other activities mentioned in your entry form are commendable. The seminar that you organised in co-operation with Clare County Council – "Bio diversity" March 2005 – and Clare Biodiversity Day on March 22nd was a major initiative.

Litter Control:

Your efforts in regard to litter maintenance are working as there was no litter to be seen on the day of adjudication. Well done.

Tidiness:

In regard to tidiness unfortunately the town did not have a great appearance of tidiness as there were pockets of poor areas, cigarette butts were quite prevalent around the street and the public toilets visited were very poor. Also in the Square, where trees were planted in the developed area, the plastic was coming through the gravel making a very untidy appearance here. Whilst the new vegetable stall is an improvement on what was in situ, one side of this is being used to pile up empty crates and discarded vegetables and again some form of storage would be needed here. One area which was tidy was a builder's yard on one of the approach roads. Also, the fact that there were no weeds at kerb sides was noted.

Residential Areas:

Well established houses continue to make a commitment to the Tidy Towns effort. The new residents, of which you will have many in the near future, should be encouraged to assist in your efforts. All contractors should be requested to leave any sites they are working on in a tidy and orderly manner when they are finished.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned, the approach roads were well maintained in general and gave a welcoming aspect to the town. When all the construction work is finished no doubt the signage and street surfaces throughout will receive attention. We note that in regard to signs you are having dialogue with the County Council re obtaining bilingual street signs.

General Impression:

Ennistymon is a traditional Irish town where work has been progressing for a number of years now. However, this is quite slow in taking place and there needs to be a catalyst to expedite projects where possible. Unfortunately, the town has a rather tired look about it in some areas. We look forward to seeing the further progress that Ennistymon deserves happening within the next few years.