

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrigaholt** Ref: **732**
County: **Clare** Mark: **205**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	205

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and basic sketch map of the village, which was of assistance when adjudicating.

It is noted that you are a new committee of 4 and indeed you welcomed to the competition from 2006 and it's hoped that you will progress in the years ahead.

It would be worthwhile to consider a simple 3-year plan for next year's competition, this will give you a set of objectives and timescale for actions that are achievable.

The situation re Carrigaholt Castle should be addressed as it is a potential tourist attraction that should be developed and that whole area made more visitor friendly to take advantage of dolphin watching.

The Built Environment:

Carrigaholt has a very appealing streetscape that has not been totally taken over by modern day developments.

It was noted that a number of village premises were re-furnished in keeping with the original street architecture. Some seem to be seasonally occupied but are still maintained to a very high standard.

In time it may be prudent that the committee consider approaching Clare County Council with a view to having the village included in a Village Renewal Scheme as there is so much potential within Carrigaholt for positive development especially around the core in green area opposite Keane's Grocery and Pub. There are a few derelict buildings that need attention even to camouflage them would be a start.

Given the location I am sure that there are few developers only too eager to get their hands on them. One or two planning notices were seen on some such buildings.

The Church was in very good condition as was the National School across the way.

The Garda Station is a striking building that was in acceptable condition

The following premises deserve mention for the standard of presentations Fennels Bistro, The Long Dock, and especially Carmody's, which has retained all the features that one associates with a rural shop or pub. Keane's has also that distinctive appeal but needs to be repainted as do a few others. Simple measures such as these would make massive improvements. The Committee should approach Clare County Council to address the issue of poor road surfaces.

Landscaping:

The village needs to have a landscape plan applied as part of a greater renewal programme. There are a number of focal areas that could be tackled in the meantime and improved upon. Simple but effective planting arrangements should be put in place in the green area near recycling centre. This would make it a little pleasing amenity that visitors would enjoy. It was also noticeable that large sections of the village were bereft of trees and again consideration should be given to the planting of appropriate trees for a coastal village. There were some very well presented individual gardens and colourful hanging baskets the day. The arrangements on the bridge were admired as one enters Carrigaholt. The above comments just offered a few suggestions that could be included in your overall plan.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Given that this is a coastal village with a marine tradition you should consider seeking advice from the Wild Life Ranger from Clare County Council to help you identify what would be a suitable wild life project to undertake. If you embark on such a path do involve the local school children, as they will bring enthusiasm as well learning about the fauna and flora of their area.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good on the day and it is important that this continues and that the Committee gets involved in spreading the message by both communication and action. Organise clean up groups and ensure that things such as sufficient bins are put in place.

Waste Minimisation:

The Race Against Waste booklet supplied will give you very good advice, as well as examples undertaken elsewhere, on how to develop sustainable projects in this category. Again it is also important to involve the local schoolchildren from the outset.

Tidiness:

The standard here was acceptable and efforts have to be made to keep back areas clean, kerbsides free of weed growth, ongoing work sites tidy. The Committee should refer to the Handbook for more comprehensive advice on this matter. Bear in mind that there are a number of key areas in the Village that can be improved upon, this will happen when every body is working together for the one goal.

Residential Areas:

The existing and extended Local Authority Housing is for the main part very well maintained and in fact some were excellent. There were one or two back areas that were quite untidy and when the Committee gets established it should engage with local residents to ask them to have a representative on board the main group. The newer developments will fit in to the fabric of the village in time.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrance and link roads were all easily accessible and signs were clean and visible. Unfortunately the standard of the road surfaces was very poor. It will need the powers of political persuasion to get this problem rectified.

General Impression:

Carrigaholt has the potential to do very well in the competition and the Committee will have to build up in strength to undertake the tasks that are in hand.
The Village is a very popular place for visitors during the summer months and potential attractions such as the Castle and the Dolphin Watching are strengths that other places do not have.
You are welcome to the 2006 competition and we wish you well for the future.