

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Gowran** Ref: **392**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **255**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	255

Overall Development Approach:

Gowran is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. The village obviously has a rich cultural heritage and it is good to note that residence have a high awareness of this. Being located on a national primary route (N9), makes your task regarding the maintenance of your and presentation of your lovely village all the more difficult, however you appear to have risen above the challenge: well done. Thank you for your detailed submission and in particular for the photographs of the children at work, you are leaving an important legacy here for future generations we wish you well in the implementation of your work program and will enjoy charting your progress in the competition.

The Built Environment:

It is good to note the high number of period buildings within Gowran village which still retain their traditional features, well done on the painting of the old national school. Try to avoid shutters such as the ones being used on the garage located obliquely across from the post office premises; these should be replaced by open mesh type and an internal box. Quite a few premises were in need of cleaning or painting at the time of our visit; the Bob Lanigan & Son Motor Repair premises was quite tidy in its roadside presentation, however some of its buildings were in need of cleaning or painting; this commercial premises is large, and the large vehicle which occupy its curtilage area has a devastating effect on the streetscape.

Landscaping:

The stand of silver birch trees inside the roadside boundary wall of the graveyard are maturing nicely and provide welcome winter colour when they are fully in leaf. The build outs which form car park spaces at the church have not been planted and some need repairs to their kerbing your specimen??274 tree and flowers at the road junction in the centre of the village was admired, as of course your beautiful park in the village centre. Flower displays were colourful and were located at many venues around the village and the green open space

at the Enniscorthy junction has been nicely maintained also. Your Gairdin na nog project is an excellent initiative and it is wonderful that the school children are involved in this.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Thank you for your excellent submission under this heading; your plan for Gairdin na Nog which includes a woodland area, orchard, herb garden, raised vegetable garden, living sculpture, and much more is breathtaking and the list of work completed is commendable; we look forward to charting your progress in its development and are considering it for an award under this heading. The accompanying map of the proposed garden was most helpful thank you. Ensure that this development is well sign posted in the village for future visitors.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately litter control was a little weaker this year than is the norm; some rags were noted on the roadside opposite the church and plastic cups, bottles, and a milk carton together with take away litter and crisp bags were also noted at various points around the village centre and on the road to the old mill. You will have to revise your litter control activities and see where these need to be tightened up.

Waste Minimisation:

To compete successfully under this heading you will need to liaise with the business community and the farming community as well as residents in order to develop initiatives that will work to minimise waste as opposed to recycling it. A good place to start would be to identify the type of waste that's common in your village and post information evenings for the community on developing a strategy for these.

Tidiness:

Your recycling point was noted and was tidy overall, however some bits and pieces were stuffed in one side of the receptacles, this should be closely monitored as the problem can grow given half the chance. A poor wall behind the pharmacy on the road to the mill was noted which had an untidy looking appearance.

Residential Areas:

Your new housing developments are being nicely presented and hopefully your new residents will enhance the life of the community and become involved in environmental matters and particularly the Tidy Towns initiative. Older terrace stone cottages were admired for their simple presentation; some on-street terrace dwellings in the centre were in need of cleaning and/or painting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Stonewalls through out the village and on approach roads marking entrances looked particularly well. Road signage is good also. Some high fencing was in need of refurbishment. Road and footpath surfaces were good also. Hopefully the overhead wirescape will be removed at some stage in the future and cables ducted and you will be in a position to feature street lighting on attractive lampstandards.

General Impression:

Well done on a fine presentation; we wish you well in the implementation of all your planned projects and we are especially interested in your Gairdin na Nog project.