

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Graiguenamanagh** Ref: **393**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **215**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Graiguenamanagh is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed submission together with brochures and inclusions on forestry developments, all of these indicate the vision of the residents of Graiguenamanagh for the future of their lovely town. We acknowledge your awareness that the town is undergoing a transitional period and may not reach its full potential in terms of the competition for a few years yet, however we admire your dedication and commitment to your vision.

The Built Environment:

Graiguenamanagh is a charming town of narrow winding streets and many heritage buildings; the rise and fall of your streets made possible views of the surrounding countryside which are most pleasant. Many buildings are in need of cleaning and or painting; a number of buildings exhibit inappropriate signage and old fashioned shutters with external boxes, the more modern open mesh shutters which allow the illumination of the window when in use would be more appropriate. Encourage shop owners to avoid using posters and stickers in their windows and doors and where canopies are necessary avoid the closed end type of canopies in favour of the straight edge retractable type. Your civic buildings and historical buildings were beautifully presented and the latter well interpreted for visitors to your lovely town.

Landscaping:

Landscaping through out the town was admired for its colour and profuseness and is appreciated all the more in the light of your work to grow all plants used by you from seed, this is a tremendous achievement; well done. More plants for greater seasonal interest should be planted on the roadside banks at the school. It is also suggested that the banks of the car park at the Fair Green be planted for seasonal interest also. Well done again on container plants through out the town. The corner site at the Duske Lane was especially admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work accomplished for Silaire Wood to date is commendable it was a grand achievement to purchase this wood from Coillte for community use, well done. The planting of wild flower beds on the slopes of the Fair Green is an interesting initiative which hopefully will be sustainable, well done on the twenty nest boxes made in the local school and located in the Silaire Wood; well done also on the wild ducks in the pond and the wood, hopefully a sighting of a single otter is indicative of a larger community.

Litter Control:

Litter control was to a mixed standard during adjudication, a lot of litter was sighted in the town centre however no litter was seen on the outskirts of the town. Many bins in within the town centre were full to overflowing, this may explain the weak litter control here however many bins were empty also so it appears that the frequency and selection of bins for emptying might be related to the problem. Well done on the acquisition on your road sweeper and on your activities to promote litter awareness amongst the community; your litter signs are an excellent initiative.

Waste Minimisation:

Reference has already been made to the recycling point, your activities under this heading should include liaison with the business community and farming community and other interests in order to find ways in minimisation of waste and not simply recycling. We look forward to your efforts under this heading over the next few years.

Tidiness:

It was sad to note the dumping at the bring centre and it is probably the worst case seen by this adjudicator anywhere in the country; this is all the more sad when one considers the efforts of the committee under this heading, your full page advert in the weekly newsletter regarding tidiness in Graiguenamanagh is acknowledged in this respect. At the time of adjudication many derelict premises were noted; no doubt these are waiting redevelopment and will bring the built environment of Graiguenamanagh to a higher standard on completion. Lots of treated weeds were noted and these looked a little unsightly.

Residential Areas:

On-street dwellings within the town centre were nicely presented and many of these had fine traditional features. New housing developments looked well also for example; the attractive colour scheme in Brandon Park was noted. A number of boundary walls in Brandon Dale were in need of cleaning and or painting and screen walls to a housing developments on the entrance from the New Ross road were in need of cleaning and painting also. It is good to note your activities in regards to liaison with residents for the presentation of their own areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Old natural stone walls are a handsome characteristic feature of Graiguenamanagh; continue to reveal these where possible to highlight their beauty and to refurbish where possible also. Approach roads were neatly presented and your nameplates were admired also. The car park at the Fair Green was nicely surfaced, hopefully overhead service cables will be ducted at some stage in the future allowing you to have feature lampstandards with public lighting.

General Impression:

Graiguenamanagh enjoys a rich cultural heritage of which the committee is rightly proud. We look forward to charting your progress under the built environment upon the redevelopment of derelict properties.