

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Owning** Ref: **402**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **217**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	217

Overall Development Approach:

Owing is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition; thank you for your application, we note the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to complete one as it will help you to make further progress. Owing is a beautiful village located against a backdrop of heavily wooded hills and of which there are scenic from many points in the village and from approach roads. If there are local walks amongst the hills perhaps these could be identified and developed to Sli na Slainte standards and sign posted from the village centre.

The Built Environment:

Well done on the presentation of Marion Hall, St. John of God's Sisters National School was well presented also. Anthony's premises looked well also, however a number of what appeared to be old lock up or out house type premises on the road out to the burial grounds looked like they would benefit from cleaning and or painting. The church and its grounds enjoyed a good presentation also.

Landscaping:

Some very young trees were noted on the bank of the roadside stream located near the remains of an old mill (presumably). This landscaping is a good initiative however the surrounds need to be a little more tidy especially the bed of the stream; the large stones/boulders along the retaining bank of the stream are an attractive feature and could be highlighted more to good effect. The landscaped area with beautiful stone at the entrance to Owing from the Piltown road was particularly admired; well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The burial grounds were neatly presented and the handball alley in the site of the remains of the old church

and much older burial grounds is most unusual. Given that you are located within a heavily wooded area there is of course lots of woodland habitats around you and you could make substantial progress under this heading if you were to identify the variety of species and their habitats and publish this on an information panel in order to promote awareness and appreciation of wildlife throughout the community.

Litter Control:

Well done on an excellent standard of litter control, this is a grand achievement; keep us informed of how you achieve this standard as this can be a source of additional marks also

Waste Minimisation:

A recycling point was not noted in your village, do you have a Race Against Waste project ongoing? If not consult your Race Against Waste handbook for ideas on how to get started.

Tidiness:

The stone wall along the southern entrance to the village so weedy that it was hard to see the planting on top. One wonders if the remains of what appears to be an old mill together with the green area here is in private ownership and if anything could be achieved here for the village? the overall appearance of Owing was one of tidiness although there were a number of incidental site entrances and areas that could be improved.

Residential Areas:

Hopefully the beautiful traditional architectural features of the vacant/semi derelict dwelling located beside the church will have these features retained upon refurbishment. The high hedge boundary to the hillside dwelling is being maintained beautifully, a garden near the telephone kiosk was especially admired. Other hedgerow boundaries through out the village were noted for their neatness and attractiveness also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside verges were natural along approach roads to nameplates and neatly maintained inside nameplates. Road signage such as nameplates and speed limit signs etc, look well. Where stone walls exist reveal these by cutting back excess vegetation and refurbish where necessary as they can add great character to the village and it is good idea to highlight the beauty of their craftsmanship.

General Impression:

Owing is an attractive village in a beautiful setting a lot more could be achieved in its presentation in order to ensure that you reach your full potential in the competition.