

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Urlingford** Ref: **406**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **224**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	224

Overall Development Approach:

Urlingford is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission together with your draft plan the latter made interesting reading and was insightful into the vision Tidy Towns Committee has for Urlingford. We wish you well in the implementation of your plan particularly traffic calming measures and the development of a wildlife reserve at the river across from the cemetery.

The Built Environment:

The number of beautifully presented buildings were noted and these included Hayes shop front, Gleeson's Bookmakers, the Credit Union and the Urlingford Library. Encourage shop owners to pay more attention to the attractiveness of their window display and to desist from posters and stickers in windows, metal shutters for security such as those featured on The Gift Shop and closed down canopies such as featured on Cooke's Footwear, the protruding plastic sign on The Forge Take Away premises is enormous and should be removed. Hopefully the completion on the large new commercial premises on the southern entrance will enhance the streetscape here.

Landscaping:

We note from your draft plan your intention to landscape the main street and wish you well in achieving this. Young trees through out the town are maturing well and will enhance the environment with the passage of time, as well as providing new wildlife habitats. Flower displays were noted at several locations together with nicely maintained green open spaces and these are an attractive feature and such a welcome relief from the traffic. The outer edges of grass verges on approach roads and from the nameplates in could be trimmed for neatness whilst the inner edges could be left to feature wild grasses and flowers.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The warren post fencing on the left hand side of the road on the southern entrance into Urlingford should be planted with native hedgerow to create wildlife habitats if a site is not earmarked for development in the medium to long term future. The woodland area and riverbank located across from the cemetery is truly beautiful and we wish you every success in two of your plan to develop this for wildlife and recreational amenity with sign posting from the main street.

Litter Control:

Again we note from your submission and your draft plan your requisitioning of new litterbins as part of your strategy for dealing with litter control and we hope you achieve this. A number of roadside edges were littered with plastic bottles, cans, and sweet and crisp wrappers, these included a site across from the school and on one of the entrances into the village.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point was quite well presented on the main street on the southern end of the town. To compete successfully under this heading it will require that you take initiatives to minimise waste as opposed to just recycling; you should try to get business interests as well as residents in waste minimisation through the use of workshops, circulars, leaflet drops, etc. We look forward to charting your performance under this heading.

Tidiness:

A number of commercial yards were in need of greater screening and indeed a number of screening walls around the village was in need of refurbishment. We hope you achieve your requirements of more recycling points and skips through out the village particularly for residential developments your submission indicates that you are aware of difficulties posed by derelict/ vacant premises and you are commended for the steps you have taken in this respect.

Residential Areas:

Residential developments are beautifully presented in most cases and Togher Crescent looks particularly well Emerald Gardens looks well also as does Unstreet infill development on the road to the school. The single storey cottages are charming, as are the stone cottages. Some of the older dwellings still retain their traditional features and hopefully they will continue to do so as they are refurbished; a case of point is the handsome period house located beside the Top Garage.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

New stretches of footpaths were noted along the Togher Road and the newly surfaced path to the cemetery; perhaps a shared surface road sign should be placed on this road also at exit and entrance points. There are far too many signs on the southern entrance to the village which is a bit of a distraction to the eye, hopefully your plans for footpath refurbishment in year two will be realised and off street car parking for year three.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Urlingford is one of a very busy thoroughfare but one, which has many charming features, which hopefully with the passage of time will come to the awareness of the travelling public.