

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Errill** Ref: **414**
County: **Laois** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks for your submission, which was neat and easy to read, giving the adjudicator a clear and concise picture of your work pattern! The map provided was especially useful and comprehensible on the day. Your work plan seems practicable and sensible. Errill Tidy Towns Committee seems to be an industrious and dedicated one. Fortnightly meetings must be a great help to your work and you would appear to have developed a good working relationship with the local community. You would also appear to be working well with Laois County Council, the GAA, the Hall and Cemetery Committee. The participation of the local school in the Green Flag initiative is laudable. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, at your level in the competition – which is very high – it is more difficult to gain extra marks, but the hard work and dedication of a committee such as yours is never taken for granted!

The Built Environment:

The commercial properties in the village centre at the green were generally freshly presented on the day. Of note were Dowling's with its attractive floral display, Allen's and Keane's. The church looked well, with its colourful rose beds, as did the Health Centre. The school had been freshly painted.

Landscaping:

The magnificent green spaces that form the central spaces of Errill village green give it a marvellous sense of elegance. The mature overhanging trees are quite stunning in their effect, with their central permanent planting. The village pump had been freshly painted. The monument was simply presented on School Road and we look forward to seeing the plaque in the church ruins in the not too distant future. The proposed planting of indigenous hedging on the Roscrea road is very appropriate and laudable. The graveyard is quite spectacular! Attractive planting at the pump created a good impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in this regard is apt and suitable. The provision of bird and bat boxes by the council is helpful to your work-where have these been located? The wildlife bed in front of the polytunnel is a good idea as is the attentiveness to bird nesting times when cutting hedgerows. The future riverside walk sounds like an interesting project.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was excellent! Well done to all concerned. The odd paper was evident on the Borris in Ossory approach road. Daily litter patrols are obviously paying off! The involvement of the local schoolchildren in this work is excellent. It is important that children have an awareness of litter issues at an early age-it is one that will stand to them throughout their lives. Participation in the Laois Inter Community Litter League is also laudable.

Waste Minimisation:

The active encouragement of the use of the bring bank is laudable, as is your segregation of recyclables during clean ups. The bring centre was quite neat on the day. Good luck with your work in relation to the provision of composting bins. The county council should be able to advise you in this regard. There may be an issue with the use of communal composting facilities and their siting.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. Your work regarding weed control and the cleaning of signage was noted and applauded, although a few weeds were evident to the front of the hall on the day.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the approach roads and in the village centre were neat and smart for the most part. The housing estate on the Rathdowney approach was admired, as was Tierney Park on the school road. Clougane is another attractive new estate, with well-landscaped entrance area. A marvellous display of roses was noted at a house opposite the church. Another house in this vicinity sported some attractive rose beds and hanging baskets. A house was being renovated near the nameplate on the Borris in Ossory road, and a nearby entrance area was being built in stone.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the village were very well maintained. The Rathdowney road sported well cut grass verges and clean signage. The grassy verges and banks of the Templemore road also looked well. Road surfaces were in good condition. Good luck with your plans for the provision of street furniture. We hope that you continue to lobby the council in regard to the sweep ups that "never materialise". Unfortunately in these busy times, the only way of ensuring that things are done is maintenance of pressure!

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to revisit Errill after a number of years. It looked very well on the day despite the inclement weather.