

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Askeaton** Ref: **442**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **238**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>238</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Askeaton is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your entry. Thank you also for the maps. We note you are a sub committee of the Community Council and receive support from FAS and Limerick County Council. Congratulations on involving a Transition Year Student on your committee this year.

### **The Built Environment:**

Much work has taken place in Askeaton in this category, and all for the better. The Church and grounds are very well kept; and the School, Medical Centre, Tourist Information Office, Post Office, The Hall and Cois Sionna Credit Union and Community College were all presented well. Many of the business premises were in good order, including Mary's, The Belfry, Falcon Travel, Deel Pharmacy, Kennedy's Bar, Davison Pharmacy, Firefly, and Boston ivy clad Aeroboard Ltd, and their parking area looked well. The Bank of Ireland building is weather stained, as is B. Collins, the Amber Garage signage is very poor and the Christmas lights need removing and R McDonnells and adjoining buildings needs attention, as does the Deel Business Premises. The industrial area of Membrane Technology and Kerry Agribusiness needs attention. And the old buildings opposite the Friary are very unsightly. Along the lovely quay walk the Library was under reconstruction, and a number of derelict buildings take away from this handsome street. Askeaton boasts some very fine mediaeval buildings: The Franciscan Friary with its very well preserved cloister; St Mary's Church and historical graveyard, and at the centre of the town stands the Desmond Castle. In the Town Centre the Information Board unveiled by President McAleese and surrounding area was admired, as was the useful Driving Route Map and finger post signage directing visitors to the various sites in the town. We wish you well with the redevelopment of the swimming pool project.

### **Landscaping:**

The raised stone beds, with their cheerful yellow marigolds, on the approaches from Limerick and Foynes were eye catching, as were the ½ barrels in the town centre area. And the Rowan trees were maturing well, as were the trees planted by the Friary. By the Hall the plantings were much admired also. Again the trees with under planting of summer bedding along the Quay looked very well. The hanging baskets looked very well along both sides of the bridge, as did the window boxes on three floors of the Tourist Information Office. On the way down to The Green the raised bed by the Tennis Court, with its planting of lilac, roses, marigolds, pinks, irises, etc looked lovely. And some of the plantings on the arbors, including beautifully scented rambling roses, in The Green were admired. The Green, assisted by FAS, is a lovely amenity for both locals and visitors to enjoy. Corner bed by the Slí na Sláinte sign needs attention. Many of the private dwellings on the outskirts of the town and in the centre have some lovely mature gardens, and others should be encouraged to replicate. The Marian Shrine would benefit from a new planting scheme. And the tree/shrubbery by the parking area near Statioil needs weeding.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your plans to develop a wild-flower stretch on the by-pass, is admirable, and we wish you well with these plans. The area surrounding the River, including The Green is a natural habitat for wildlife, and looked very clean - the resident ducks looked quite at home on the river and were also nestling close to the bridge. The wildlife/wildflower garden at the Foynes end of the by-pass is still in an immature state, but should be very attractive in time.

#### **Litter Control:**

The litter bins were generally in good order. Some litter was noted along the road to Rathkeale, down by the Friary, many cigarette butts gathered by the kerbside at Cagney's Bar, and the old plastic container outside McDonnell's is most unsuitable for stubbing out cigarette butts. But overall the standard in this category was acceptable.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, etc. We wish the Colaiste Mhuire well with their application for the Green Flag. You already have a bring bank – so some waste is being recycled, including bottles, cans plastic, newspapers, magazines, and is in a very user friendly location. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

#### **Tidiness:**

Generally weed control about the town was behind schedule, but is probably due to our inclement May weather. The farm buildings at the side of the Bank, with their rusting galvanized roofs and gate, give a bad impression so close to the town centre. The area around the Statioil Garage needs attention and the chain link fencing would benefit from screening. Dumping of old furniture at the back of the Community College should be discouraged. The breeze block wall by the Medical Centre could be improved by the planting of some ivy. The sign for Burkes General Store is poor. Sheehan's yard area is untidy and the window display area would look better without all the fly posting. A few gable ends of buildings in the two seem to have been neglected.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Many of the dwellings in the Housing Estates of Plunket Road, St Francis Avenue, Church View (except for one at the end of the Estate, with its caravan, trailer and unkempt garden) looked well, some with very attractively planted gardens. The new Deel Manor looked well, including the green area, and some of the residents had planted some suitable small trees in their gardens, and others should be encouraged to do so. Work still needs to be done on Mussell Lane, including the outside walls. Pleased to note you are continuing to work on improving St Mary's Terrace. There are some lovely dwellings along the quay and throughout the town. It is noted that a large new development is under way opposite the grotto, and a planning notice for 23 dwellings on the quay.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The signage at all entrances to the town was in good order. The road surfaces and pavements were generally in good condition, but part of the pavement on the Rathkeale Road is bad. Some of the back areas need attention, including the roadway and parking areas at the side of the Bank; the roadway up from Aeroboard, including the derelict buildings, and Mussell Lane is in very bad condition. We wish you well with your plans to develop Fennell's Boreen.

#### **General Impression:**

The Heritage Town of Askeaton is a very fine town, with a wonderful history to tell and research, a streetscape

worth nurturing, and the bonus of the River Deel flowing by. Your committee has done much to improve the town for locals and visitors to enjoy. We wish you continued success.