

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edenderry** Ref: **550**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **215**
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	15
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the very comprehensively completed application from, map of the town and the very detailed work plan for the 2005- 2009 period.

The map supplied, while of help, was a little dated as it did not show any of the housing developments old or new that have come on stream over the years.

The Committee of 12 is to be commended for its methods of communicating its work to the local community. It is also noteworthy that you have fostered good relationships with both the local town council and indeed other bodies such as Offaly leader and the Local credit Union.

Now that the work plan is in place one expects Edenderry to improve its position in the competition over the period of the plan.

To achieve objectives in the work plan will require co-operation from all sectors of the wider community. Well done for taking the suggestion offered in last years report on board.

The Built Environment:

First of congratulations on taking it upon yourselves as a committee to tackle the problem of dereliction and untidy premises in general. It will be a slow and on occasions a pain staking experience but it will produce dividends in the end. One certainly hopes that you get co operation from owners of offending properties. There are many positives about the built environment in Edenderry and you have recorded some of these as well as the negatives in the photos supplied with the application.

The public buildings such as the RC Church, Garda Station, Health Board Building all the schools including MonasterBorris and the very attractive and central grounds that house the Church Of Ireland were all maintained to a very high standard very much in keeping with prevailing architecture, positively Georgian in some cases, of the town.

There were many fine commercial premises to be seen Larkin's, Finnegan's Heating and Plumbing , Bruce Betting Shop and the fine Georgian private house beside it.
Midland Veterinary on the outskirts was basic but extremely well kept.
The Sports Grounds most notably the Golf Club and the very impressive Edenderry FC deserve a mention and to those that are responsible for maintaining them – well done.
The Committee knows the negatives and the adjudicator was saddened to see some old premises of historical significance in a very poor condition

Landscaping:

The planted Oak Trees (Eadan Doire) in the area of Blundell Park were noted and of course these will mature with age and become part of the appeal of this fine town amenity.
Your plans for future development are laudable and one hopes that they will come to full fruition exploiting the Blundell Park and Canal area even more will make into a wonderful attraction for local and visitor alike.
There are some very well thought out planting arrangements to be seen around the periphery of the town-particularly at grounds of elegant period house near the Rhode Link road off the Tullamore entrance.
The MonasterBorris Park on the Rhode Road has a nice green with some very pleasant stone beds that breaks up an otherwise bare look.
Overall a good standard with individual gardens very prominent

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Good initiatives are being put in place in this category and this will gain the Town marks in future competitions. More importantly it will establish a culture of promoting wildlife conservation for other generations to come.

The provision of 25 mallard ducks, which in itself is a major achievement, will be a source of enjoyment and education to children. Many families were visiting the area on adjudication day so your comment holds true. Maybe when time allows the Committee might engage the local schools to help develop some of the projects that you have planned for the future.

Keep up the good work and more marks will be gained in the years ahead.

Litter Control:

It is good to see that you have involved the schools in trying to get the message of good litter control, children will always react encouragement not criticism.

The Town in general was devoid of any serious litter problems and this was on a Sunday so the weekly clean ups are paying off.

The housing areas were also quite good with room for improvement.

There are a few litter traps that may not be known to the Committee one was the Old National School front yard.

Keep up the efforts to promote the concept of good litter control it seems to be paying off with gradual improvements each year.

Waste Minimisation:

The Committee has embraced the concepts behind this new category and has taken steps to put measures in place that will both educate the schoolchildren and indeed the community in the practices of better waste management.

I am not sure if any of the schools are involved in the Green school programme if not it would be worthwhile to get the County Environmental Officer to come and talk to the pupils and also to the Committee to make them aware of other Community and business initiatives.

Also one can refer on a regular basis to the RAW website for updates and new additions to programmes.

Tidiness:

Unfortunately like any other town of its size Edenderry has fallen prey to the extremes of progress the proliferation of commercial signs of all sizes and shapes.

One does not know what the solution is except to say that such massing of signs, usually to be seen at junctions and town entrances, are ruining the fabric of many small towns and larger villages.

In Edenderry it is particularly bad on the Dublin Road exit.

Comment was made about the lack of civic spirit on the part of some owners and there are far too many examples in the Town and its environs.

The Edenderry Business centre was noted as being particular slip shod in its approach to advertising signs,

which are very unsightly.

On the positive side congratulations to the many home and commercial property owners that have put time and effort into keeping surrounding areas clean and tidy

Residential Areas:

Good to see that you have got representatives of residents associations in the Town on board.

This will be beneficial in getting the practical benefits of being involved in Tidy Towns across to people, some of whom may be a little sceptical.

The following areas, in a town that has a large number of established and new estates, were noted as being very well presented; Killeden Lawn an extremely tidy and attractive relatively new development, Killane View was also quite good and Boyne Meadows except for that stark boundary wall was in good condition.

The Older established terrace of cottage type houses on Fr Murphy Street were in fine order, its neighbour across the way Greenwood Park was a little mixed

Recommendations from adjudicators, such as myself, are fine but the desire and effort has to come from the people themselves.

Your involvement as a Committee is vital to improvement in specific estates – do keep up the good communication and practical interaction that prevails between you and individual residents associations

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tullamore entrance is acceptable although the Bridge, which I presume, is the Killane Bridge is rather dirty and in need of a cleaning, re stripping and re painting.

On the other side of the same road the concrete fencing is becoming dated and maybe the council has plans to up grade this whole area.

The positives here are the very presentable homesteads that one sees in to the centre.

The Rhode Road and its link was also very well presented with newly planted saplings now beginning to take shape. It was nice to see colourful wild poppies.

The Golf Club Road was fine except for the massed and messy signage at the junction of the Dublin Road.

The Dublin Road on the out skirts was acceptable but nearer the town these signs do not do it justice

General Impression:

It was nice to have my first full visit to Edenderry not just to pass through.

The town has far more potential than its marks suggest and there are moves afoot to have a more co coordinated and planned approach to getting things done.

The work plan is practical and it will prove worthwhile in the years ahead.

Keep up the good work.