

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullow** Ref: **48**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **270**
Category: **D** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	35
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	35
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Tullow to the 2007 Tidy Towns competition. We note for a start the long list of residents associations and Public Bodies with whom you deal. This must involve great administration and communication skills in a rapidly expanding community such as yours. We commend your committee of 10 for what must be hard work and for the initiatives for the Green Flag community school and the three national schools. There is also a sizable list of projected activities which will grow with the town in the future and will involve many traditions and newcomers.

Tullow is expanding on both sides of the river Slaney in all directions with a mix of development from the general ugliness of the business premises and factories on the Bunclody and Carlow roads to the beautifully landscaped Hilton Hotel. The Slaney is crossed by an old stone bridge from the Bunclody approach side into a traditional small scale square with shops and banks and rises to the church of Ireland on the Dublin road with a landmark tower and steeple. Also in the town is the church of 'The Most Holy Rosary' and a fine old Georgian style courthouse. There is also a new modern County Buildings and a timber footbridge over the river. On the outskirts is the beautifully landscaped houses on the riverside.

The Built Environment:

The old centre with the square, adjacent streets, the bridge and old streets on the other side of the bridge remain mostly well conserved and are presented and landscaped well. The traditional buildings on the Bunclody approach side are interesting in shape as they follow the line of the curved roads. The churches are well presented and the courthouse requires landscaping from the road.

The Hilton hotel is well presented but sadly masks the old house at Mount Wolseley. It is noted that several undeveloped sites are hindering the efforts of the committee but this seems to be improving with the new very

attractive, council offices. Irish street signage is used throughout.

Landscaping:

This is well presented on the river side area for its critical length through the town. All housing developments without exception have trees and shrubs in place with grassed open spaces which could in many places be further developed to provide fittings and good street furniture. For residents of particular interest is the fine landscaping on the Ardattin road from the Mount Wolseley Hilton Hotel as far as the community school.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No mention on this is made in your Tidy Towns entry form. Perhaps this is an error. We note from earlier reports that a Green Flag has been awarded and that energy saving seminars have been given in the schools. We were impressed by the Flora and wildlife signs at the riverside. We also welcome the use of the Abbey grove yard as a wild area.

Litter Control:

We welcome moves to clean rubbish from derelict areas in particular the centre of the town. There is a bring bank on the Carlow road.

The bring bank included a bottle bank and a skip which was locked behind ugly security fencing and closed between 6.30 pm and 8.00am. The compound was locked at the time of inspection and was impossible to see the contents. This does not seem to be a good policy to encourage use. A similar policy is being followed in Carlow town.

Waste Minimisation:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary too encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Litter was minimal throughout the town on the day of inspection. Signage, as usual; there was too much of, which causes confusion. Signage throughout the town requires maintenance. With the exception of the most recent development there is a need to put cables underground in conjunction with Eircom, ESB and the county council.

Footpaths particularly in the centre should be fixed and available for use where developments are taking place. Graffiti is evident in areas and should be removed or painted out.

Residential Areas:

These in the main were well kept and attractive. In some cases green space could be used as community use such as play areas, paving and seating for elderly people and others also.

Planting in particular developments on the Ardattin road are of a very high standard with boundary walls and fences also being very attractive. Rural walks through fields may also help community links in the town and assist with nature walks which include natural planting and wildlife.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Main roads serving residential areas in the main are attractive. However the Bunclody and Carlow road approaches, need serious upgrading where they pass business and industrial premises. The roads are ugly and require hard and soft landscaping which should provide screening also to the properties located behind. The river side approaches are very attractive and give interesting possibilities for access to the river. Schools are well planted and well presented with very attractive dry stone walls outside the community school. Work is underway in clearing out old graveyards which offer the opportunity of recording and landscaping them. The old well was noted on the Ballymurphy road which could be redecorated. You have two fine bridges in the town one old and one new. Perhaps more connecting footbridges might be constructed for ease of pedestrian access.

General Impression:

The old town centre consists of a fine traditional square with connecting streets laid on a loose grid. The old stone bridge is very attractive and connects with traditional streets on the Bunclody road side of the Slaney. Many sites in the centre are in ruin and in need of replacement. There is also the challenge of up grading Bunclody and Carlow road approaches.

Well done on your grasp of the need to involve your community with all the agencies involved and now providing good quality modern facilities with lovely water views.