

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Youghal** Ref: **600**  
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **257**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **02/07/2007**  
**19/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>257</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the detailed submission and useful map and welcome to the Tidy Towns competition for 2007. Extensive building works are in progress. The new and very large Community School is impressive and imposing. The grounds are well set out and neatly presented. The area offices of the County Council looked very well, were neat and orderly. The life boat station was crisp and free of litter. The Gael Scoile was bright and well painted with suitable hanging baskets. The large scale Carlton Warf development looked well but there was a deal of litter at the main entrance. The Walter Raleigh Hotel looked very well and was one of the few buildings to be flying flags.

### **The Built Environment:**

Many small scale streets and lanes were atmospheric, notable the Priory doorway area while Chapel Lane was colourful and bright. But the landmark Clock Tower needs attention; weeds are on some window ledges and one window is broken. River gate Mall frontage looked well. The Catholic Church was impressive with high walls and hanging baskets. The post office, Credit Union and Bank of Ireland looked well. The 15th century Tynte's Castle tower was regal while the nearby Brooks SuperValue Supermarket retained the street line with their appropriate arched car park. The condition of the Dutch Red House needs urgent maintenance to wood work, windows and door while the parapet also requires repair. Motherway and Company looked well with fine flower boxes at first floor level. Ahern's various buildings and Youghal Pharmacy each had fine floral displays, setting off their well presented businesses. The Moby Dick pub was colourful. South Abbey School in the former Church looked very well as did the Old Monastery with its splendid gates. Loughnan Antiques, a bright colourful shop, featured pleasant window boxes.

### **Landscaping:**

The very attractive signs depicting the historic port, located in the raised gardens were impressive but would need to be washed for full impact. The layout and flowers at the Dungourney round about were excellent. The millennium garden of time is well developed and there was excellent planting at Tesco. The IDA industrial park is well set out, do repaint the entrance gates. The grounds of Artesyn Technology were well presented. The one way traffic system works well and was marked by good floral displays especially at Dominic Collins Place. The 1798 Memorial garden has reached a point where significant work is required to restore it to its appropriate presentation standard. The fountain is very rusty and is sadly filled with litter. Hanging baskets in Main Street caught the eye and were most colourful. The mid street planting in O'Neill Crowley Street was excellent.

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

The proximity of the sea is very much to the fore in your wildlife presentation. The interesting signage at the sea front is ideal and well maintained. The quarry connection, birds and fish helps to flesh out the realities of natural history. Seek additional, smaller, incidental areas, perhaps in the large school grounds within which to establish wild life habitat. Seek the advice of a local bird or wildlife enthusiast.

### **Litter Control:**

The first impression on the Waterford Road entrance was of a great deal of litter. Thankfully this depressing vista was not repeated within the centre itself. There was a falling from grace behind the Tourist Office and the 1798 park is not being respected at all.

The town's streets were very largely litter free. Good supply of litter bins were noted through out and these clearly were being well used and serviced regularly.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The large recycling facility – AVR Solutions, was most impressive with fine solid walls and gates. The roadway leading to it is very much below par and needs attention. The bring centre at Tesco was well managed, suitable sited and clearly widely used. Your intention to develop programmes to draw attention to this aspect of the competition is noted. Consult the tidy town's book and also the literature from Race again Waste for ideas and recommendations. Encourage the local schools to secure Green Flag Status.

### **Tidiness:**

The car park behind AIB was delightfully neat and orderly, Youghal Rugby club was well presented. The large former factory, opposite Gallagher Terrace appears to have been sold recently and hopefully the new owners will improve its presentation. The introduction of dog waste only boxes is a welcome initiative.

### **Residential Areas:**

The centre is well served with attractively presented, housing areas and estates. Woodland grove featured many individual, well presented houses. O'Reilly Terrace, a 1992 winning area was neat and attractive. Dr Kennedy Place looked well. The infill houses on Cork Hill were well presented while the small Moonraker Muse was colourful. Springfield Court was delightful while Dun Coran estate had a number of examples of weeds outside the kerbs. Both Dysart Grove and Dun na Mara were very well presented with their grassed areas well cut and displayed.

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

The area before, after and the River Tourig Bridge itself is in need of serious remedial attention especially as it is, for many, their first introduction both to Cork County and to Youghal. There is a great deal of litter and traffic spoil, most of the signs require washing and a number need to be repainted and or replaced.

As in a good number of centres, an inspection of all road signs is warranted as many will be found to be in need of washing for good presentation. The small scale black signs intended for use by pedestrians are a real asset and an element of street furniture in their own right. The surface of roads and streets generally is satisfactory and road markings are good.

### **General Impression:**

Youghal is a busy and attractive town with a deep seated history and extensive links to the nearby sea. It

retains much of the mystique of a sea port and there are frequent reminders of the every present sea to be found in its street scale and layout. The future of many such towns is linked to tourism and the attracting of increasing numbers of visitors through out the year. Youghal has much to commend it to these visitors and your efforts are certainly helping to insure that they town is presented in a fit and proper manner. Well done to all involved in this years competition.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Your submission was very comprehensive and provides you with ample opportunity for progress. The Donaldson Plan now offers scope for much improvement and we urge you to extract viable suggestions for improvement and phase your progress over a medium term period. The town's history has been recorded in numerous reports down the years and you now need to implement many of the recommendations made in recent years. A thorough walk of Main Street reveals many wonderful historic features and buildings. It also reveals many poorly presented buildings in need of restoration and some dereliction was also sadly evident. Your challenge as a voluntary committee is not a small one and the area under scrutiny for adjudication is vast when you consider the water front and approach roads. We admired the public park on the Cork approach and the standard of landscaping here is commendable. Does any school have a Green Flag award? if so let us know. As a Heritage town the expectation is higher than normal and the preservation of the Town Wall is excellent. Indeed, few towns can boast of such a lengthy stretch of medieval walls in such good condition. We also liked the interpretation as part of the heritage trail: well done. When submitting your entry next year do include a town map for the convenience of the adjudicator. We commend you on the welcome amount of hanging baskets in Main Street especially. We especially admired the following buildings: W. Clarke, though it is unoccupied, Mrs. Quin's Charity Shop has unique sash windows, Permanent tsb is unique, and The Red House is in need of refurbishment. The landscaping at Ahernes is excellent. We liked the individual effort at Fitzgerald Terrace but we also note many of the 1930 period front railings are being removed to accommodate car parking. Like most towns of your size you are undergoing immense residential development and The Estuary housing estate is indicative of large numbers of new houses adding to population numbers and consequently service requirements. Perhaps you might recruit new volunteers for you committee from these new estates. A visit to the beach was rewarding and well presented. Litter control here is good and your floral displays in the containers at the beach entrance is acknowledged. We wish you well for 2008.