

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallins** Ref: **384**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **204**
Category: **D** Date(s): **15/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	23
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	204

Overall Development Approach:

Sallins is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, we note however the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to complete one as it can help you to make substantial progress in the competition. Sallins is a work in progress as so much development work is ongoing, it is important to ensure that development sites are cleared of building materials on completion of work. It is good to note that you have 12 people minimum engaged in working parties and that you communicate with local school children, well done also on your liaison with Kildare County Council and local developers.

The Built Environment:

Well done on the presentation of the school and its grounds together with its roadside boundary wall, footpath and car parking spaces, all of which combined to make an excellent overall presentation. We look forward to the completion of the new SuperValu and other developments. The Church of Our Lady of Guardian Angel is charming and the presentation of The Flower House is excellent and a model for others to emulate. Many shop fronts are potentially attractive however the thoughtless placement of posters in windows and doors spoils their presentation and over facia signage is problematic in some instances. Encourage businesses to pay attention to the presentation of their curtilage areas also. Well done on you work on derelict cottages and the removal of graffiti as it appears, we look forward to the outcome of your negotiations with Kildare County Council regarding the enhancement of the Village Square.

Landscaping:

Stately stands of mature trees both in the village centre and on the approach road are an important characteristic feature of Sallins and all are being well maintained free of weed growth at their base, well done

on saving many trees in the face of ongoing development. Residential estates nicely landscaped and green verges throughout the village and on approach roads enjoy an excellent standard of maintenance. In future landscaping projects ensure that species of trees and shrubs chosen are native as this will attract a greater range of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The maintenance of the canal banks is meticulous and their overall presentation is excellent, well done to those involved. Stands of wildflowers on the eastern approach road (past the school) are an attractive feature, perhaps a wildflower survey might be undertaken and results published on an all weather vandal proof display board. A future worthwhile project could be to identify flora and fauna associated with the canal and the publication of the results also, perhaps schoolchildren could be involved in this initiative particularly transition year students.

Litter Control:

Your strategy of dividing the village into sections and assigning sections to particular groups is commendable and hopefully will bring the results that you aspire to. On the day of adjudication litter was noted in quite a number of places, most of the litter consisted of soft drinks bottles, crisp bags and sweet and ice cream wrappers. There is no mention in your submission of litter segregation; this is something that could earn some marks both under this heading and under waste minimization.

Waste Minimisation:

We wish you well in your plans to locate recycling bins at a number of destinations in the village. Waste minimization is about reducing the amount of waste produced by the community and your strategy to compete under this heading might involve encouraging householders to start composting their waste, the business community could also be encouraged to segregate their waste in addition to minimizing it.

Tidiness:

The difficulties associated with keeping a village tidy with so much development work in progress is appreciated and we anticipate improvement under this heading at the cessation of building works so do not be discouraged. In the interim keep up your efforts to eliminate graffiti and to keep weed growth in check along the footpaths. The latter was a problem along the footpath to the Naas roundabout.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates are excellent in their presentation with their large expanses of green areas maturing trees and shrubberies, mature hedgerows and flower displays in containers. Well done to all concerned. Railway Cottages are charming. Your liaison with resident association appear to be fruitful, we anticipate the further strengthening of relations in this respect.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The railings along the footpath opposite the school are most attractive. The eastern entrance to Sallins features handsome trees and create an attractive leafy entrance to the village. The roundabout on the Naas exit must be one of the best seen in the country. Nameplates are being nicely maintained but weeds and long grass featured at the base of some. Road surfaces and footpaths are good in most instances and the railway station was tidy. Some wirescape has yet to be ducted.

General Impression:

Sallins looks excellent in respect of its housing estates and outer areas but improvement is necessary within the village centre to progress much further in the competition.