

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annagassan** Ref: **487**
County: **Louth** Mark: **223**
Category: **A** Date(s):

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	223

Overall Development Approach:

There has been a significant improvement in the performance of Annagassan in this years competition and this is reflected in the noticeable increase in the marks obtained. The Tidy Towns Committee are to be congratulated on their hard work and the great performance of their village. The level of participation in the tidy towns competition is good with 10 members on the committee and good contacts are being made with Louth County Council, Fas, LEADER and local businesses. The Committee are also to be commended on their contact with the community through meetings and parish bulletins. The efforts of the Committee to engage with local schools are also acknowledged - this is considered to be very significant as schoolchildren can be a valuable resource in this competition. The difficulties outlined in your entry form are noted and if it is not possible to engage with schools, are there any other groups (scouts, cubs, sports clubs, etc) that can be used to make contact with younger people? The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for submitting the all the detailed plans and documentation with their entry form. However, It is recommended also that the Committee should use the previous years report when undertaking their projects for 2008 and if it not possible to follow any of the suggestions of the adjudicator, the reasons why could then be included in the comments section of the entry form.

The Built Environment:

The stone bridge in Anagassan is a lovely feature of the village and the natural stone walls also add great character. The old fish house is also an attractive building that appears to have been recently painted and it is hoped that a beneficial use can be found for this building soon. The development of the Harbour area is an exciting project for Annagassan and it is heartening to read that the tender documentation has been prepared. One hopes that this project can get underway as soon as possible as it will have a hugely beneficial impact on Annagassan and because the current harbour area is in particularly poor condition. The commercial buildings in the village such as O'Neills Pub are also quite attractive and appropriate to their context. Some derelict and

vacant sites / buildings were noted on the coast road (from Clogherhead) and also in the village and it is encouraging to see that this matter has been raised with Louth County Council - an update on this course of action would be welcome for next years competition. The proposals included in the built environment section of the action plan are to be commended. It was also observed during the adjudication that properties in the village are also being maintained to a high standard and the condition of the sea wall on the coast road was considered to be good.

Landscaping:

The work of the Committee was noticeable in this category. A number of examples of good quality planting were observed during adjudication day including the floral tubs in the village. The attractive planting at the crucifix was also seen while the planting at the stony garden is considered to be an improvement. It is noted that tree planting has taken place on the amenity area. I find myself in agreement with the previous years adjudicator and concur that the flower boat in its current form is not an attractive feature and it adds little to the appearance of the village. Also, I could not locate the planted fish boxes that were intended to illustrate recycling and the nautical theme.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This area is a huge opportunity for Annagassan but little seems to have been achieved. The projects included in your action plan are noted, but all of these with the exception of contacting the Heritage Council have time frames a number of years away and no reference is made in the Action Plan to the Harbour under this category. It is recommended that this area is prioritised in future years and possibly other options that are achievable in a shorter time frame (such as developing the wildflower area behind the bridge alluded to in the landscape section) should be explored. Otherwise, Annagassan will continue to perform poorly in this category.

Litter Control:

It was noted from the comments of the previous years adjudicator that litter was a problem in a small number of areas. These areas were checked during the adjudication and a big improvement noted. Well done to the Committee as your hard work was very noticeable in this category. In addition, the inclusion of a section in your action plan on this category is to be commended.

Waste Minimisation:

This area is becoming increasingly important in the tidy towns competition and it appears to be a missed opportunity for Annagassan. The efforts of the Committee in segregating waste from litter patrols and contacting the Schools are to be commended and it is acknowledged that the Committee are attempting to provide a bring bank in 2008. However, it is suggested that additional actions such as starting a composting area to provide composting for landscaping projects and obtaining mulching mowers should be considered. Actions like these will help the Committee to significantly improve your performance in this category in future years.

Tidiness:

In general, it is considered that a reasonably high standard of tidiness has been achieved in Annagassan, as no clutter was evident in the village and all signage appeared in good condition. In addition, there was no evidence of unused lamp poles or posts or graffiti to be found. In general, maintenance of grassed areas and weeding appear to have taken place on a regular basis. However, it was disappointing to note that the area opposite the Fish House beside the bridge identified in last years report does not appear to have been improved as it had an untidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

The quality of the residential areas in Annagassan was generally good. In particular, An Rian was very attractive with lovely planting and a very well maintained green area – this was in contrast to the small terrace of houses directly opposite. The housing at Ballygassan is also attractive and new landscaping beds were under construction at the time of adjudication – it will be nice to see them completed in 2008. It was also noted that the road and the pathways in the Saltings were resurfaced.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Annagassan are generally good and the view from the approach road of the bridge and the harbour road is very attractive. The quality of the road surface and the markings etc is also of a good standard. However, the verges on the approach road from Clogherhead do not appear well maintained and there is a poor definition of the path and road edge. Untidy verges were also noted on the Dillionstown road.

The road to the harbour is in poor condition and it is hoped that this will be improved as part of the redevelopment works proposed. The northern approach appears relatively well maintained when compared to the other approaches.

General Impression:

Annagassan has undergone a significant improvement this year and this is reflected by the jump in marks. In order to continue this progress, it is suggested that the action plan is closely adhered to with some projects (like wildlife and waste) are prioritised for 2008.