

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carlingford** Ref: **489**  
County: **Louth** Mark: **252**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **03/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>252</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Carlingford continues to make steady progress in the Tidy Towns competition and while more work needs to be done to reach the high standards of the past, the noticeable improvements are commendable. It is noted from the entry form that the level of participation in the tidy towns competition appears to be good with 8 members on the committee and this would seem to be a reasonable number given the size of the town. It is heartening to see that full use is being made of Louth County Council, Louth LEADER, Carlingford / Cooley Tourism and local businesses. Are Fas available to provide some additional support? It is encouraging to see that there is a good working relationship with the schools and it is hoped that this will lead to additional involvement from schoolchildren who can be a valuable resource in this competition. Trying to involve all residents associations, development groups, local sports clubs and other groups should possibly be considered in order to increase participation. The adjudicator would like to thank the Committee for submitting the detailed plan and documentation with their entry form – this was very helpful during the site visit. The detailed 3 year action plan was noted as were the additional documentation on events and wildlife.

### The Built Environment:

Carlingford is a fascinating place and it is no wonder that it proves so attractive to large numbers of tourists. The number and variety of historical buildings provide a great distinctiveness and identity to the village while the setting on the peninsula give a spectacular backdrop. The promenade and the castle are two outstanding features of Carlingford and while I concur with the previous years adjudicator that it would be an excellent project to have King Johns Castle restored, this does not appear likely to happen in the near future – although its inclusion as a proposal is noted and encouraged. The Heritage Centre, which occupies a prominent site at the entrance to the village is a lovely building. Approaching from the north via Newry Street and Back Lane, many excellent period buildings can be seen. In the opinion of the adjudicator, the real charm of Carlingford is to be found in the numerous back lanes, cut stone walls and doorways that can be found. Market Square is

particularly attractive due to its lively mix of traditional old buildings such as the Anchor, Saints and Sinners, Carlingford Arms and the Hotel and the small number of new contemporary structures which combine wonderfully. A small number of buildings / sites detract from this setting somewhat – such as the old building on Newry Street adjoining Taaffes Castle. Nonetheless, the streetscape is still considered to be very impressive.

### **Landscaping:**

The hard work of the Committee is evident in the landscaping projects that were to be seen on the day of adjudication. Indeed, the Committee were observed hard at work at the bring bank, the tennis courts and around Magees monument. Numerous examples of planting were observed. The simple planting on the promenade was considered to be very effective as it brought lovely colour to the grey stone walls. Similarly, the planting in the car parking area was also considered to be very effective. Lovely planters with trees were also observed at the junction of Newry Street and Back Lane. The planting observed on the buildings in market square is very effective and makes a lovely contribution to the streetscape. To the south of the town, planting was observed at the Catholic Church. There also appears to be a good opportunity for planting on a bed in front of the civil defence building that is not being availed of, while the Harbour could benefit from some additional planting.

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

There are some excellent opportunities for providing wildlife amenities in Carlingford given its coastal location. The proposals included in the action plan are noted in this regard. However, it was observed during the adjudication that there are few opportunities to appreciate wildlife as the information boards available are in relatively poor condition. It is recommended that this area is prioritised by the Committee and there is no doubt that the marks will increase as a result.

### **Litter Control:**

A good standard of litter control is being achieved in Carlingford. This is clearly the result of the hardwork of the Committee and their involvement in the National Spring Clean. Well done! However, small amounts of litter were observed on Newry Street and in some small laneways.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an area that is becoming increasingly important in the tidy towns competition. The efforts of the Committee to date are to be commended. However, it is considered that improvements could be made and that a bigger emphasis could be given to this category in your action plan. The Committee is encouraged to explore additional actions that would help to minimise waste. They include segregating and recycling the waste collected at the National Spring Clean and litter patrols, running awareness campaigns of reducing, reusing and recycling at a local level and investigating the provision of composters to individual houses. The Committee is also encouraged to provide a composting area so that the resulting compost can then be used in their ongoing landscaping projects. Actions such as these will significantly improve your performance in this category in future years.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, it is considered that a relatively high standard of tidiness has been achieved in Carlingford, with some areas such as the car park and the promenade proving very clean and tidy. Some improvements are possible. Untidy lanes with weeds were observed off Back Lane and Newry Street and where boundary walls were missing, it gave an untidy appearance. The harbour area was also a little untidy due to the presence of weeds and what appeared to be poorly painted hanging basket holders on the sea wall. The area that accommodated the information boards was also overgrown with weeds.

### **Residential Areas:**

The quality of the residential areas in Carlingford and those of individual properties was generally quite high. Full credit is due to the property owners for their careful maintenance and planting.

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

In general, the approach roads to Carlingford are good, with a high standard of surfacing and road signage. However, the surfacing and the verges approaching Newry Street from the north was poor in parts. The surfacing on some of the lanes and on some of the lanes off Back Lane and off Newry Street was also poor in places.

**General Impression:**

The general impression of Carlingford is very good and with continued good work and priorities being set in key areas of waste minimisation and wildlife and natural amenity areas, there is no doubt that the Committee will continue to make progress.