

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Edenderry** Ref: **550**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **218**
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	15
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry. The request to focus on the town centre only was noted, however, the nature of this competition requires us to adjudicate the town as a whole – within a 1km radius of the centre. I was at a loss without a map as the town is quite big and it would have been much easier to find the areas if a map had been provided. It is good that there are links between the committee and the main partners for the area including Offaly County Council and Leader company. Two schools having the green flag in the area is a great achievement. Continue to strengthen links with all sectors of community and engage as many people as possible in the developmental process.

The Built Environment:

Edenderry has some marvellous old buildings around the town square and it is hoped that they will be renovated in the near future. Quite a few impressive buildings have unfortunately been left to run down. Could some of these be cleaned or painted even as a temporary measure? Working with the owners, even some planters in front to screen with colour would be an improvement

The house painted pink and purple is attractive - perhaps this is the location of blundell house? unfortunately without a map i had difficulty locating it.

the building painted white and blue on the square looks very well

At the other end of town, the building with oak partnership in it could do with removing the weeds from the pavement out front. Ednederry business park really needs a revamp – entrance has letters falling off – then all the signs for whos inside are faded and all different. New signage here would greatly improve things.

The new paving and bollards and clearing of overhead wires is noticeable as taking a lot of work to get it to this stage. Will there be a sealant put over the gravel at base of trees? It is scattered around. It is a pity there is so much litter about. Few shopfront deserving a mention – the steakhouse restaurant and café across the road, that tedders chemist, The paving has an urban feel and it looks unfinished in places. Mcgreals shopfront although needs paint is lovely old style. And foys is eyecatching though also needs paint. Some untidy buildings here but some quite interesting like the heritage features on paper shop, window surrounds on building next to it. Lots of heritage buildings left ruin down – great restoration potential around town square. Nice to see planters and benches outside town hall.

Landscaping:

The canal harbour is a nicely landscaped area in town and a good amenity to have. There are plenty of benches, plantings and litter bins. unfortunately there is a lot of litter about at time of visit. The noticeboard here may need to be replaced as it has faded a lot.

There could be more planters around the town, especially in the town square area

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a bridge over the canal on the outskirts of town where there is potential to do more landscaping and develop as a wildlife area, with nature panels etc. Some effort has been made to mow, with near edge of water left wild for the creatures that live there. Bridge itself needs to be washed and tidied – some floral landscaping here would be nice – and to clean the bridge itself - and make a more welcoming entry down to the water

Perhaps waterways Ireland would consider doing flora and fauna panels for different parts of the grand canal way – better done on centralised basis

Litter Control:

There was quite a bit of litter around at time of the visit. There needs to be stepped up vigilance in this area. Despite the new bins, they weren't being used. Outside shops and businesses all through town, there were scattered items blowing around. Are businesses playing their part by sweeping in front of premises? how often are council street sweeping services in town? are there volunteer patrols and regular clean-ups?

Waste Minimisation:

It is great that two local schools have the green flag. Well done to all for their achievements in reducing, reusing and recycling waste. The civic amenity seems well used. There are no new projects planned - liaise with the County Environmental Awareness Officer for promoting waste management to householders, composting programme, linking with schools and youth groups projects. There are many opportunities for improving waste management. REfer to the Race Against Waste guide for assistance.

Tidiness:

The new streetscape has taken a lot of investment. It is a huge improvement to have the wires put underground and the new street lighting is very nice. It is noted that new railings and walkways are going in by the canal.

It looks quite untidy around the lidl and tesco approach. Theres a retail park at the back with lots of litter. The hedge has rubble at its base which could be cleared out. The new shrubs were noted, and the car parks themselves were free of litter.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas were fine on the most part. There are some charming old cottages and mature residential areas. Most had kerbs and verges kept clean and neat, with freshly painted frontages. Some of the newer apartment block developments are huge and an indication there are a lot of dublin commuters basing themselves in the town. The strength of the residents associations in the estates is evident in how well maintained they are, especially the green areas. Could do with more namesigns, and without a map difficult to know names of residential areas. Kilmeaden was good, Boyne meadows would benefit from more beds on its expansive green area, sycamores new and will look more settled in time.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There has been much resurfacing, apart from the JKL main st, the St Francis St and St Marys road has been redone.

Approach from tullamore side is fine, nice signs up for lions group and welcome to edenderry and TT sign up as well, the canal area and bridge don't know if that's been exploited for recreational use
Approach from Dublin was fine, a lot of new works going on the roads there – new surfacing, new kerbing, couple fine properties that entrance. Lovely white farm house with out buildings. Nice landscaping with trees on the corner – old dublin road maybe, wide junction

General Impression:

Edenderry has a lot of restoration potential but at the moment, there are many town centre buildings in states of disrepair. There is much work to do but there is a strength in local communities in the residential areas, and with continued efforts this town can do better in the future. Good luck to all.