

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Carrick-on-Suir** Ref: **301**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **239**
Category: **E** Date(s): **02/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your very helpful submission, which included three maps clearly outlining your work programme under the following headings; landscaping, heritage and sport and recreation. This submission was of great assistance to the adjudicator. The town is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Siur and was one of the chief strongholds of the Duke of Ormond. There are some remains of this stronghold to the present day and adjoining them is a fine example of an Irish manor house. This complex forms part of the charm of Carrick-on-Suir and the guided tours provide a great understanding of the town, its history and its environs. Carrick-on-Suir has a lot of history with a rich agricultural, industrial and social heritage. Well done to the committee for their focused approach to the tidy towns endeavour in Carrick-on-Suir

The Built Environment:

The main core of the town contains a handsome stock of two and three storey buildings that date back to earlier generations. These buildings retain many of their original architectural features such as sash windows, ornate doorways and shop fronts. The town also has a handsome stock of newly developed shop fronts. One excellent example of a contemporary interpretation of a traditional shop front is Cusack's. It was also noticed that there were some fine ongoing renovations and refurbishments (such as Butler's Bar and Grocery) and some new shop fronts opposite, on the extremely atmospheric Bridge Street which descends to the bridge. The town has undergone many changes to its centre over the years. Some of these developments were somewhat unfortunate. However, more recent developments have shown a marked improvement. Some of the outstanding examples on the Main Street, are O'Ceallachain's Pub, Michael J.O'N. Quirke Solrs, Carraig Hotel, Cooney's, 7th Heaven, O'Dwyer's, Glascott's and A New U to name but a few. Outside the town centre, some of the finer frontages are Keogh's Bakery and the Park Inn Bar and Bistro. The presentation of the Town Hall and the formal planting in the memorial garden inside the wrought iron

railings were magnificent. Nearby, beside St Nicholas' Church, are two fine examples of infill town housing based on classical proportions which hugely enhance this area. This trend in building presentation augurs well for the future.

Landscaping:

The abundance of parklands is one of the main features of the town and there is a great variety in that it contains both recreational active parks and passive parks.

The playground and playing field were neat and tidy on the day of adjudication and the town park and its surrounding private residences looked magnificent. The seating in this area was in need of some attention. The river park and its playing fields were presented to a high standard and this entrance to the Kilsheelin Walk was impressive. Previous planting of a variety of trees and shrubs are now beginning to mature and this effort was highlighted in this area by some magnificent displays of summer bedding plants. The flower display at Clairin Well was stunning and a great surprise. Well done! The list of landscaping projects carried out during the year was impressive and no doubt their completion will provide favourable results in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The River Park is an outstanding natural amenity and offers an opportunity to highlight the work of the committee in promoting the wildlife of the river and its environs. If illustrated, information boards were erected they would be both educational and supportive of the wildlife agenda. Once again, the grounds of the Heritage Centre were presented to a high standard, and the wildlife programme here is working well.

Litter Control:

While litter control was good in the majority of the main streets, there were problems to some of the attractive back lanes namely Cook Lane and Chapel Street, which contained some litter and required weed control. The Central car park off Main Street also contained a lot of litter scattered about on the day of adjudication. Dillon Bridge also required weed control. The weekly ongoing cleaning programme is noted.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centres both at the New Street car park and outside the Christian Brothers Secondary School on the Waterford Road, were neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. Your ongoing communication with the Chamber of Commerce and Traders Association is noted and it is to be hoped that this endeavour will prove successful. To proceed further in marks under this heading, a good start would be to encourage the various sectors of the community to audit the amount of waste produced by themselves and to devise ways of reducing it, in addition to segregation for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet, included in the Tidy Towns pack, contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this booklet will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

The town centre area gave an overall impression of tidiness and it is accepted that there are many sites where building works are in progress. Reconstructions currently being carried out in Greystones Street will be a major improvement to this area while areas of Carrickbeg, opposite the Marina are in need of some attention and enhancement. Well done on your initiative in relation to flyposting and graffiti removal.

Residential Areas:

The standard of residential areas is generally good with some very fine individual presentations throughout the town. Residential housing schemes are also of a high standard with many individual gardens admired. The presentation of the limestone name signs in Carrickbeg was impressive, as were the schemes of Brookvale and Mass Rock with their many fine flower displays. Seskin Court has an interesting layout with nicely designed houses and a well located central playground. This scheme is relatively new and is in need of some further landscaping and planting. The raised central circular flowerbed has yet to be planted. The O'Mahony Avenue estate has a very high standard of presentation in the public open spaces. The area in front of the single storey houses was particularly admired. Clairin and Lissadell Park estates are designed around the village green concept and these had an attractive appearance. The shrubbery at both ends of the green was presented to a particularly high standard. A number of residences had beautifully presented hanging baskets on Mill Road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads varied somewhat in their presentations. It was noted that on the Dungarvan Road some construction was ongoing and some areas of this, particularly through the housing estates, looked very well. The box hedging announcement sign is a nice welcoming feature, however on the day of adjudication this was

in need of some trimming and maintenance as was the one on the Waterford Road near the Mercy Convent. The general presentation of the Waterford entrance is impressive particularly the landscaped areas in front of individual housing schemes, the Sean Kelly Sports Centre and the Convent of Mercy. On the Kilkenny approach, some areas were in need of litter and weed control and it was noted that a Respond Housing Scheme is nearing completion. This nicely designed scheme will enhance this approach when completed. The adjoining O'Mahony's Avenue (previously mentioned), with its rich and colourful display of flower boxes, tubs, hanging baskets, flower beds and shrubberies, together with some superbly presented private gardens, is one of the highlights of Carrick-on-Siur.

General Impression:

Carrick-on-Siur is a wonderful town with a rich heritage having great potential for the future.