

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ennis** Ref: **68**
County: **Clare** Mark: **295**
Category: **G** Date(s): **25/07/2007**
10/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	48
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	295

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your very comprehensive and detailed application which included a resume of action undertaken for the year and planned for the future. Also of great assistance was the Town Map that was very helpful to the adjudicator in identifying relevant areas of the town and its environs. The improvement in overall appearance and the positive developments that have taken place in Ennis, especially over the last five years, have been dramatic and have resulted in a massive improvement. The Tidy Towns Committee obviously have a sense of pride of place and that is very evident. The interaction between the Committee, Clare County Council and the relevant agencies especially FAS is very commendable and has proved invaluable in your quest to get tasks complete and contentious items addressed. This type of co-operative approach could be used as a model for any other town or village that has similar aspirations. But the most important element in the whole mix is the contribution of the greater community of Ennis and its environs.

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator has had recourse to visit Ennis at intervals over the last few years and the standard of presentation in the built environment has continued to improve dramatically. The buoyant economy has affected Ennis in a positive manner, and this can be seen by the amount of new building development and refurbishment of existing buildings taking place throughout the town. There was a huge amount of construction/roadworks going on during the adjudicators visit. All approach roads were being attended to leading to a large amount of traffic disruption. No doubt when this work is completed it will be of great benefit to Ennis.

Landscaping:

Ennis was ablaze with colour throughout. Wonderful planting, hanging baskets window boxes etc were in evidence. The air was full of the aroma of summer. Planting, in both beds and containers struck a wonderful

balance throughout the area and complement the well maintained green areas and beautiful mature trees. Well done on the wonderful expertise you have fostered and congratulations to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

What a wonderful resource you have on your doorstep of Ballyalla lake. Here families and tourists alike were noted enjoying the wonderful peaceful surroundings of the area. Ballybeg woodland was also visited on the day of adjudication. However why are you keeping it such a secret, there were no signs to direct a visitor to this lovely tranquil area. Also locals had no information on its whereabouts when asked for directions. Lees Road Sports Amenity and adjacent Forest Park, is a beautiful local amenity for the sports and leisure enthusiast alike.

Litter Control:

A very good standard has been set in the town and was virtually litter free. The litter warden is obviously on top of the situation as witnessed during the day of the adjudication. The wonderful achievement of the National School in receiving the green flag is very noteworthy it ensures that these young people will spread the message of good litter control and start best practice from an early age.

Waste Minimisation:

Some excellent initiatives in this category have been undertaken. The committee has bought into the concept of better waste management and this has resulted in a joint approach throughout. Keep up the momentum and do consult your Race against Waste publication at intervals for new ideas. Ennis recycling centre was visited, again what a wonderful asset to your community and outlying areas. The bottle bank was in an acceptable condition on day of adjudication. However its location on quite a busy road may need to be addressed.

Tidiness:

A few of the many narrow lanes associated with Ennis, such as Thompson Lane, Bradys Lane and Merchants Sq were poorly presented. These will have to be addressed. However these aside the overall appearance of Ennis was one of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

Most residents, vouched for by the photographic evidence provided, are doing their utmost to present the best possible image of their respective areas and Ennis as a whole. Overall a very good performance and credit in this instance is the residents themselves.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned previously all approach roads in the town, are being worked upon at present. This however will not affect your overall marking, as the benefits will prove themselves in time. Road and footpath surfaces were good throughout the town. Nameplates and directional signs were visible and clean.

General Impression:

Ennis has made excellent progress in the competition to date including its National Tidy Towns overall winner award in 2005. There are some very worthwhile developments that the community can feel very proud of. The heritage aspect of the town which includes some attractive lanes may need a more vigilant approach in regard to presentation. However the overall impression is that each and every private resident of Ennis is motivated to co-operate in the Tidy Towns effort. We look forward to even further progress in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ennis is situated on the banks of the River Fergus and has a large permanent population as well as catering to substantial influxes of tourists. Its narrow streets and lanes are a pleasure to walk around and much effort has been undertaken to preserve its historic charm. On entering from the R871 there appears to be much development work underway and the appearance of this area will improve once this is completed. The car park area containing the Global Revival Evangelistic Ministry, Woodrow Hardwood Flooring supplies and several other shops was in very bad condition. The Global Revival Evangelistic Ministry shop front is quite run down and needs painting. The entrance into the Tim Smyth Park opposite MACE needs tidying up as there were quite a few piles of sand and gravel and some areas of grass had died off. The playground is great development and a good size for the many children playing there on the day of adjudication. The Courthouse and its adjoining park were very well kept and the landscaping was bright and appealing. The roadway into town from the Courthouse was highly maintained and landscaped; however, the blue railing required painting.

On Abbey Street there were quite a lot of cigarette butts and a small bit of rubbish. The bins did not appear to have cigarette disposal areas so the addition of these would assist in reducing cigarette litter. Dunnes Store on O'Connell St had a lot of cigarette littering out the front. The introduction of a wall mounted cigarette receptacle would help greatly here. The roundabout and sculpture at Turnpike Road were well maintained and landscaped. The residential areas were very well kept and a pleasure to visit. Just as much effort had gone into preservation of residential areas as into the more public, tourist areas so it is good to see the focus is on creating a truly liveable town rather than just focusing on the tourism aspect.