

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Scarriff** Ref: **87**
County: **Clare** Mark: **230**
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry and details of work on hand and your plans for the future. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Scariff for adjudication. The high floral displays at neighbouring Tuamgraney raised hopes for a similar display in Scariff. However, the standard of flowers dropped as soon as we passed the Community School. The Killaloe approach is your brightest and we do acknowledge the many individuals who have worked hard to achieve well presented gardens. Like most towns of your size you are experiencing unprecedented residential building. Unfortunately this type of development is not matched by infrastructural development and the town itself has changed little.

The Built Environment:

You have many fine traditional buildings with great character. Many of these date to the 19th century and are embellished with traditional features. Public buildings are well presented and we note the church was being painted during adjudication day. Landscaping at the Community School is commendable and the national school is excellent. As mentioned last year you have many derelict buildings and these are now keeping your marks down. Shopfronts mentioned last year looked well again and we would add to these the names of Karena's, and O,Meara's Pharmacy. The former livestock mart is now an eyesore: any plans for future use.?

Landscaping:

Landscaping is sporadic and we feel a coordinated plan is necessary to ensure phased, sustainable landscaping that will give colour and greenery throughout the year. Much of previous year's planting is bearing fruit and the tree planting, though limited in the town centre illustrates how beneficial sustainable landscaping is. We would urge you to lay greater emphasis on tree planting within the town. The containers at Market Square are poor in presentation and need refurbishment. Planting at the Harbour is excellent and landscaping at the Shannon Navigation is also excellent. Well done on the colourful hanging baskets at both bridges, they

present a welcoming colour at both approaches. Tree and shrub planting at the small riverside car parks are commendable. The riverside walk is a valuable amenity and should be signposted from the town centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunity to raise your marks in this section in view of your development on the river walk. A series of illustrated display boards displaying the wildlife of the area would enhance the walk and popularise wildlife.

Litter Control:

The town was generally litter free. The main problem here is cigarette butts, especially on your newly developed cobble lock footpaths. This is a problem for the community and the authorities to tackle and smokers have a duty to dispose of their cigarette butts in a proper way. Likewise, traders should ensure that special containers are placed in strategic locations around town. A small amount of litter was observed in the town centre.

Waste Minimisation:

We visited the Waste Transfer Station which is well presented. We notice it does not open until 2 p.m. and this is restrictive. We also feel you need a Bring Bank Unit within the town which would serve the community 24 hours a day. We were delighted to witness the Green Flag at the National School and would like to commend all concerned with this achievement. A Green Flag is an adjudicators delight.

Tidiness:

You have problems with poorly kept commercial developments not keeping their premises up to standard. Some storage yards are really untidy and present a poor image for the town. You have a serious problem, not within the scope of any voluntary organisation to rectify, in respect of the standard of your streets. Standards of the town streets and footpaths is very poor and in need of improvement. We would suggest you lobby the Clare Co. Council with a view to improvement.

Residential Areas:

Well done to the many estates playing a positive role in keeping Scariff so colourful. Hill View on Church Road in particular was most impressive and the collective and individual effort here is praiseworthy. We would like to name other estates also but unfortunately we were unable to identify the estates because there are no names on them. This is an ideal project for your committee to tackle by erecting appropriate bilingual signs that would serve locals and visitors well in identifying estates. In general residential areas are well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We have already mentioned the poor condition of your streets and footpaths. To this we can add the condition of street signage which is in need of a good cleaning. We suggest you do a survey of the signage and inform the Council of your findings. Side and back entrances are now an integral part of the competition and proprietors should be encouraged to keep these entrances to a high standard. We liked the many traditional shopfronts on Main Street and hope their good condition will be maintained. The town would benefit by placing the overhead cables underground. This in turn would enable you to develop a project for public lighting.

General Impression:

Scariff is a busy town with a good deal of traffic and traffic congestion. It is also a pleasant market town with many attractive traditional features. Its adjacency to the Shannon offers many advantages for the development of tourism and it behoves all concerned to ensure the town is well presented to a high standard. We hope the above comments will be taken in the spirit they were offered and we wish you well for 2008.