

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Williamstown** Ref: **321**
County: **Galway** Mark: **255**
Category: **A** Date(s): **24/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	255

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Williamstown to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed Entry Form and supporting documentation. Your TidyTowns Plan for the period 2009-2011 gave a clear picture of your future vision for Williamstown, but a copy of the 2008 Plan was not identified in your documentation. With a committee of 10 people TidyTowns seems to receive strong support in Williamstown and the TidyTowns Newsletter is a really good idea in that it is circulated to all residents in the area. Just six meetings a year does seem a little low for the work programme that you have on hand. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful. Your strong involvement with the School is commended. The scale of the map provided this year was a little too small to allow village detail to be shown and it is great that you were able to attend the County Council TidyTowns Workshop in March last.

The Built Environment:

The Catholic Church stands out in Williamstown and the colour scheme used here was excellent as was the presentation of the car park. Great work has been done on the freshly painting of buildings and congratulations to you all on that and just a few buildings still needed to be painted. Good landscaping caught the eye at the Garda Station. The School presentation would be improved by the provision of some hanging baskets and window boxes and the road boundary wall here needed to be painted. Another building that stands out is Kennedy's Bar and the timber façade here was admired. Well done on the excellent presentation of The Square. The well painted buildings here were complimented by the very maintained central grass area, street furniture and the beautiful trees.

Landscaping:

Small landscaped areas around the village were effectively presented such as in The Square and the trees along the street and the colourful wide tubs were impressive. The adjudicator liked the way the car parking along the street was effectively broken up or divided by small landscaped areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Bog Road Walk is an excellent village amenity and a beautiful peaceful unspoilt place. The adjudicator was impressed by the Information panel about the Bog Road near the Church and the sign nearby giving the bird species to be seen along the Bog Road. This was unusual but warmly welcomed by your adjudicator. The graffiti on the back of this panel needed to be removed. Hopefully by now the bird life along the road here is recovering from the fire.

Litter Control:

You are to be complimented on your work on Gum removal. The presentation of the Bring Centre was a little disappointing as the official signage was missing and some litter was noted. It would be good if the units could be placed on a very slightly raised platform. The daily litter picks is obviously being effective as litter control again tis year was quite good.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations on having Williamstown included in the LAPD Scheme for later in this year. Your documentation said that you were encouraging wider use of the waste collection service and how is this being done? Do consider some new waste minimisation projects for 2009 such as segregating all the material collected during your clean ups and perhaps there are projects that the School would get involved with?

Tidiness:

The potential cable under grounding project and new lighting will make a big difference to the village and hopefully the authorities will move on this quickly. Near Corr an Tochair an untidy open space was noted with three steel containers. Could this area be screened from public view or otherwise tidied up as a contribution to TidyTowns? At the beginning of the Bog Road Walk the very large fenced area with machinery really needs to be screened and the gates painted.

Residential Areas:

It would be great if the estates could have name signs at the entrance off the main road. It is good that you are speaking with developers about finishing off estates as planned. This is especially important in terms of landscaping. The setting up of a Residents Association for the estate in the centre of the village is welcomed. The entrance to the Corr an Tochair estate was fenced off though some of the houses appeared to be completed at least externally. Some minor landscaping is suggested for the small estate by the red house. Individual private houses were generally freshly painted and many had attractive window boxes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main street is an attractive wide area that was well presented and your collective good work in this regard is commended. The approach roads were well presented and the good grass margins and most attractive village name stones created a great first impression for this adjudicator. It is not easy to maintain approach roads and your are doing good work here.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Williamstown for the first time. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.