

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Eadestown** Ref: **101**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **212**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry and welcome to 2008's Tidy Towns competition. We acknowledge your 5 year plan. Eadestown is a small village with a good sized committee. You work well with your local authority and with KELT, FAS and also involve your GAA. We are glad that you have a Green School.

You submitted a clear O.S. map. This is very useful to an adjudicator. You also annotated it well.

We are delighted that you have a 5 year plan, but we are not updated in full (other than by a tick mark, and some references in your application form) on what you have achieved, and how you achieved it in 2007. Some of the projects are visible as completed or not "on the ground", but others are not materially visible (e.g. wildlife surveys.) Furthermore there are no projects listed in your plan beyond 2010 (and only one 2010 project/graveyard box hedge), so in actual fact what you call a 5 year plan on its cover "2007-2012" is a 3 year plan. This is confusing.

When you make a proposal in your plan, as in no. 7. Page 3, you should use the map to locate a name like "Farrells". The adjudicator comes from a different area, and has no idea where "Farrells" is! Neither do we understand where "all ledges" are. We do know that both are in the village centre, but that is all! You do not have this project ticked off as "done", so we assume that the roadworks delayed it. This is to your advantage when you read our comments re hanging baskets in the next section. There are other 2007 projects not ticked off. It is all right not to have projects completed, but perhaps you should give a bit of detail as to why!

You do not detail the consultation process which happened locally to bring this plan to fruition. This is a pity, as we are sure you consulted widely, but we cannot credit you fully in this case for your consultation process. Thank you for submitting a recent edition of "Annagaul".

To be part of a larger group, such as a Community Council gives you access to the entire community, and also additional help. This is good. You have new residents, and you will benefit from their input hopefully in the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

Eadestown has quite a small stock of buildings comprising the village centre, so it is important that these look well. The church is a fine building, and both the structure and grounds are lovingly maintained. It is nice to see the old name insert in the front wall.

The Eadestown signs in Irish and English were admired.

There are two good white gates on the property south west of the church. The large gate needs painting.

The building (house) behind the Monument has, unfortunately had the insertion of PVC windows. This is a pity, given its strategic location. There are lovely farm buildings and a traditional hooped farm gate downhill of this house on the Rathmore side. Likewise, a lovely old two storey building on the Rathmore approach has had PVC installation. This is a lovely old farm house with associated excellent farm buildings.

The Monument is very brightly coloured and stands out well as a feature in the village centre. A small amount of paint is peeling. We would suggest that, as an interesting feature which can stand alone, you cut back on flower fill, at least removing the free standing pot on the ground outside which is "lost" and out-of-scale. We are assuming that the surface around the Monument will be resurfaced.

The school and its surrounds are well maintained.  
The stone name plate on the GAA entrance is good.

### **Landscaping:**

Please refer to our comments about hanging baskets in the following section in relation to your proposals under this heading in your plan.

We are glad that you are aware of the care you need to extend to your inherited landscaping, and that you are following best practice for the trees/plants sake and also for the wildlife. Well done to FAS on their cooperation. We admired your tree planting on the Blessington Road.

Good young hedging has been established in the old farm property on the Rathmore side of the crèche.

The unsupported sapling trees at the Rathmore approach (near the inner name sign) need care and stabilisation/staking.

Maybe a Sli na Slainte route could be developed in the environs of Eadestown?

The graveyard lavender seat area planting will be good, and we look forward to landscaping in the focally located overflow church car park.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The "wildlife area" is good, but it appears to be very small in relation to the open space availability. We are glad to see that you intend to extend the area this year. We look forward to seeing the results in 2009. We respectfully suggest that hanging baskets which you propose under this heading are not appropriate good wildlife habitats, nor are they really appropriate in your rural village, nor necessary. They can introduce an urban design element which is best left to built-up areas. Well done on your bird box! We look forward to a potential wildflower garden between the church and the school. A lot of your planning on paper has been done since last year in this area. Implementation is your key now.

Eadestown is really in the heart of the country, and on adjudication day two young lambs – an unusual sight in early summer – were observed, as were blue tits pecking in the roadside cow parsley on the Rathmore approach. Just use this resource which is all around you and let us know what exactly you have. You can start locally. You probably have some local residents who have a great knowledge of their natural surrounds, particularly farmers. Your Green School would, we imagine, be delighted to help. You could ask your local authority Heritage Officer to help you. It is not necessary at first to look for support at a National level, as the Heritage Council must prioritise nationally, and have limited resources. You have sourcing of funding for a Habitat Survey mentioned in your plan as a proposed 2007 project. Did you follow through on it? It is ticked off in your plan, but we see no actual results. Interpretation follows, but must be based on research. You have the potential to increase your score dramatically in this category.

Well done on your Bird watch talk!

We are pleased that you are aware of the importance of micro habitats.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter was not in evidence on adjudication day. Your Green School will lead the way for the adults. You could organise a litter seminar day with the local authority Litter Warden as you suggest for 2008 in your plan. Has this been done? You do not say.

You mentioned extra litter bins in last years application. We did not see these. Perhaps they were removed for roadworks period?

We suggest that you also discuss the litter bin design with your local architects and engineers of your local authority as well as with your litter warden. You say in your plan that you will continue to carry out weekly pick ups, but in your application form you refer to daily cleanups under this section. This is another example of confusion in your submission. And perhaps with the increase in population occurring, you might discuss the possibility of acquiring a small recycling centre as well as a bottle bank? We note that you are thinking about this. Well done on your Spring Clean! We read the feature in the magazine also. Maybe you could let us have more information as to how many people get involved in these activities.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

You mention that the setting up of a central composting facility is ongoing. But you give us no details, and the magazine refers to a school talk. It is a pity that you did not let us have a copy of the composting leaflet you planned for this year. Or perhaps it has not yet been issued? Well done on the Christmas card recycling and the school battery and mobile phone recycling. We are glad you segregate on litter clean up days.

You might refer to the Race Against Waste booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government. Consider organising or attending a Waste Minimisation Workshop with your local authority.

### **Tidiness:**

In general surfaces were untidy, but we do not penalise you for this, given the roadworks in your midst, but the throwing of materials, for example a traffic cone, stake, piping, etc., (albeit a small amount) at the access to the village in the overflow car park is not a good welcoming detail. The church overflow car park was commented upon in last year's adjudication, but still remains unsurfaced. However we note from your plan that you hope to achieve this in 2008. We were just too early! The name sign at the immediate approach to the church from Rathmore direction looks raw, almost tombstone like, but we assume that this is a temporary arrangement. There is also a clutter of signage here which competes with the grotto in views in to the village. The junction road sign is tilting.

The wooden planters on the Naas Road opposite the church are sitting in an area which itself needs tidying. There are weeds here, and one planter was knocked over on adjudication day. The post box here needs paint, and there are rough surfaces in the area opposite the church. It is good to see the Victorian postbox retained but on adjudication day it needed cobweb removal, and a side brick needs replacement. A farmyard entrance with an unplastered concrete block splay wall and unsurfaced splay surface detracts from the immediate village area.

Eadestown GAA pitch is well kept, with good hedging retained.

The graveyard is well kept with a lovely treed background. However the rusty containers outside the boundary wall do not enhance the environs. The (some tilting) troughs did not contain much colour on adjudication day. The shrubbery edging to the projecting side walls looked much better than any recent insertions in the carpark/recessed area fronting the graveyard. The materials in the field gate recess space opposite the graveyard looked badly

There was no graffiti in evidence. This is good.

### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties were generally looking well. The Caureen (Curran) View stone sign was admired. Tearmann Dara is meticulously maintained with stone walls, trim paths, and fences. Along the roadside verge outside the estate are lovely newly planted semi-mature trees. There were some weeds on one side in the cul-de-sac development on the school road with adjacent footpath and light in uncut meadow in the corner. There is good fencing here and good landscaping generally. The entrance could be improved visually.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As one approaches the village from the Naas direction, the wall on the right hand side needs repair. Nettles along a wooden fence (which also needs repair), and verge trimming would be appropriate. We hope that the

perimeter boundary of the site on which application has been made for 12 detached houses will be treated in a manner sympathetic to this rural village. The Eadestown sign is "lost" here. It needs more space, trimming around it, and cleaning. Road works and closures were in operation on this approach further out (at the fork), so we appreciate that a little temporary untidiness was inevitable. (Thank you for remembering to enclose notices of road works for our information.)

The footpaths here and on the Blessington Roads are well maintained. The path extension all the way to the graveyard is good. The Blessington Road was tidy. The village name sign here is well placed with lovely simple grass surrounds. The car park barrier looks a little crude in relation to the beautiful church. We note that you had landscaping proposals in 2007 for this, which you say you carried out. It still looks poorly.

The Rathmore approach Eadestown sign was smothered in tall grass edging (1st sign on Rathmore side of school.) The crèche redevelopment works took from this approach, although there were no works happening on adjudication day (a Monday.) Whereas a building site in disarray visually is somewhat excusable, there really is not an excuse for not keeping the area outside the road boundary in a presentable fashion. The roadside boundary was full of weeds and overgrowth. Again we emphasize that we are making allowances for temporary roadworks, but not for maintenance that could take place in tandem.

### **General Impression:**

Eadestown is a relative newcomer to the competition. There are many areas of progress, but also confusion with regard to work-on-the-ground. Some basic elements are overlooked in a broader attempt to plan for the future. The submission needs to be cross referenced with the reality at the date of submission. We realise that you are going through a difficult period of roadworks, but hopefully by 2009 you will have survived and prospered, and realise the benefit of temporary inconvenience.