

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Naas** Ref: **382**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **270**
Category: **G** Date(s): **08/07/2008**
22/07/2008

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed entry form, photographs, detailed supporting documentation and other material submitted. Congratulations on reaching the important milestone of 50 years involvement in TidyTowns. As one of the founding organisation involved you are particularly welcome in this significant year for us both.

It has been a year of considerable advance in Naas. We welcome particularly the four-story planters which have made an immediate impact. The upgraded presentation of the Court House especially and also the Town Hall are both most successful. It is disappointing that it has been found necessary to install the high and disfiguring and hopefully temporary fencing across the broad concourse in front of the new County Council Buildings. It should be removed as soon as circumstances permit. The new town centre is proving most successful, busy, bright, colourful and appealing. The IDA Industrial Estate is very well presented on Monread Road. However many of the individual company signs on display here need to be washed. The pleasantly painted hoarding on the construction site on South Main Street facing New Row caught the eye as an agreeable response to a short term empty site. Your developing relationships with Waterways Ireland are noted as the heighten presentation of the potentially attractive Naas Harbour becomes a priority.

The Built Environment:

The Court Hotel and this complex is a beautiful display, setting off the new pavement and layout decorated by the delightful four-tiered planters. The Maudlin's House Hotel looked very fetching and naturally, the Health Food Centre was bright and fresh. The Five Lamps Bar maintained it usually high standard of presentation while the sizeable New Hall Retail Park would benefit from sweeping the stones and shale from the entrance area. The Fire Station looked well with its three flagpoles- no flags. The Catholic Church is large, imposing and very well presented. Your stock of traditional shop fronts are of particular note. Conway-Behan Fletcher, Gorry Haoiden and McCormack's are all note worthy in this context. Sheehy Motors is a neat and well

presented commercial concern.

Landscaping:

The Harbour area, because of its enormous potential, disappoints but we note the energetic moves being made by the Town Council with Waterways Ireland in this regard. The Dublin Road Cemetery was very well presented as were the GAA Grounds. The Craddockstown Golf Course is very well laid out and we welcome the plans for the new Blessington Road Park. The Osprey Hotel and Complex continues to be very well presented and we enjoyed the planting opposite New Caragh Road. The whimsical art piece, 'Multi Horn' (our title) at the Fire Station caught the eye. The old swimming pool is now looking very tired and sad and one hopes it will be refurbished or demolished when the new pool comes on stream. The extend of floral arrangements throughout the town and particularly eye catching were the four decker flower planters which are a great success. The massive undertaking of the roundabout at Maudlin's is a brave venture and it has been achieved with great aplomb. Work is well advanced on the lakes and the amenity area on the Blessington Road. We welcome the public plans for the new amenity area park on display in this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Harbour area has a wonderful tranquil air. Despite the recent vandalism and the upset occasioned by the installation of new lights it retains, a fascination for the native and visitor alike, because of its close and intimate access with nature and wildlife. The extensive area around the lakes on the south side of town are a delight because of the range of bird life and wildlife to be encountered there. The wildlife meadows and tress planted in the area contribute greatly to its overall appeal.

We read with interest of the proposal in respect of Old Town Woodland Gardens and look forward, eagerly, to their availability.

Litter Control:

It is encouraging to read of the enhanced, focussed involvement of Naas County Council, coupled with the Tidy Towns committee towards the abolishing of litter. The actions of the litter warden and the establishment of the anti-litter committee are clear indications of firm intent. The level of street cleaning provided coupled with the volunteer actions of members of the committee are collectively improving things very considerable. We noted litter bins in many locations, without exception they are well designed, appropriately located and frequently serviced. Some beer cans were noted discarded on Maudlin Avenue and the pathways around the delightful Harbour were disfigured by an amount of litter.

Waste Minimisation:

The new cycle tracks are welcomed as is their capacity to reduce dependence of motor cars and with their positive health dividends as well. The Recycle Bring Centre are all busy but please note that only 2 of the 5 except glass, cans and textiles. Sadly an amount of dirt and spoil was very evident at the Bring Centre by the Civic Office. The amenity site, Silliot Hill is another valuable recycling opportunity which appears to be extensively used. Congratulations to the schools who have undertaken the tasks necessary to secure their Green Flag Status.

This category is as much about getting the community to implement methods of reducing the generation of waste and energy used in all its forms as it is about recycling items where possible. In effect it requires a change of mindset in both the community and personally to the issue. The staging of waste seminars and workshops are recommended to broadcast the concept as widely as possible throughout Naas. With 120 residents associations and the success of the town in Pride of Place National Awards it is clear that the community in general give great attention to a high presentation of residential areas. Your plans in place to deal with any anti-social activities are noted and the new graffiti machine will take care of any outbreak in that regard.

Tidiness:

Your resolute action in connection with graffiti is certainly helping. Considerable graffiti has disfigured the seats at the Harbour and also the Health Centre. The foreground of the Farm Development Service headquarters in Spring Garden House was quite untidy with litter and weeds. The County Committee of Agriculture premises also would benefit from sweeping the front. The lamp poles at the Harbour we are glad to know will be replaced shortly as they have been badly vandalised. The hopefully temporary fence in front of the intriguing County Council Offices intrudes and jars considerably with the expansive view previously available of this intriguing structure. The temporary fence at the Civil Defence Building is very much below par and one hopes that the old swimming pool will be suitably dealt with the conclusion of its useful life which is immanent.

Residential Areas:

Ashgrove, the current winning area was well represented with grass suitably cut but some was over hanging the curb in places. Greenanv Estate with its large number of mature tree was a delight. Ashgrove had strong points but its grass was very much overgrown. Maudlin's Avenue is developing very well. Quite a number of the trees seem to be recently planted and it appears the ground has yet to be fully reinstated. Maple Park is very well presented. The mature trees of Sundays Well Estate caught the eye while Woodlands, The Paddocks and Kings Court are all orderly and well presented.

The system of prizes and awards from the Town Council for Resident Groups coupled with the grant structure in position to part fund the better treatment of communal grassed areas is greatly assisting the overall presentation of estates which continues to improve.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main Dublin Road approach is neat and orderly with minor amounts of weeds noted on the run in. Many signs have become quite traffic soiled and need to be simply washed. The Pay Parking signs on the Sallins Road is an outstanding example while the tourist trail number 5 indicator sign is well below par. It is recommended that a survey of all signs be undertaken with a view to their washing at least and where necessary painting or replacing. The Friar Road from the junction with Dublin/Blessington to the centre of the town is a delight with trees over hanging, treated road verges and hedgerows giving a delightful, rural feel. The Blessington Road with the lakes and amenity areas looks well while the speed signs here are visible and clean. The Ballymore Eustace Road is pleasant.

Road surfaces generally are acceptable but that on Tipper Road is a matter of concern. There is a long length of cable or bull wire supporting wire fencing on the opposite side of the road beyond the County Council. This is materially below par for major road, high profile locations and needs urgent upgrading. The road surface along here is less than one might expect. The new Ring Road maintenance arrangements has it appears not yet been fully activated as grassed areas are very much overgrown in many locations.

General Impression:

The presentation of Naas improves each year. There is in position a structured, determined and focused plan to tackle its various problems. The necessary resources both in terms of volunteer time and energy coupled with finance and equipment are clearly in position and it is probable that the upward march of Naas will continue to grow with each passing year.

All involved in this outstanding submission are applauded for their efforts and wished well for 2009.

Second Round Adjudication:

The first impression of Naas continues to be heavy traffic and this is unfortunate. Having said this there is also much to praise also! Naas Town Centre looks great and tasteful landscaping was noted at the Maxol on the Dublin Road. Hanging baskets and window boxes were admired at Haydens. Other commercial premises that were looking well included; The Five Lamps, Nolan's, Annie Apples, Daly's Pharmacy, Harbour Hotel, Fire Station and Council Offices. The Church and Grounds on the Sallins Road and St. Corbans too looked well. The most spectacular floral displays were noted at the Town Hall and at the Courthouse. The Bundle of Sticks roundabout was neatly presented and trees and hedges were maturing well. A vibrant flowerbed was admired opposite New Caragh Road. Bus stops were admired for their fresh appearance with blue bins assisting a litter free presentation. The bring banks at Eurospar and on the Blessington road were noted and both were in use as the adjudicator passed. Some of the public seating on the Dublin road was damaged and should be repaired. A considerable amount of graffiti was noted at the bridge on Friary Road and around the Corban's road area. Ongoing construction was noted at the back are of Loch Bui. The approach too, and the roundabout itself, on the Kilcullen road was quite overgrown and this is unfortunate. The presentation of Fishery Lane too is disappointing with rubble and heavy weed growth evident. Residential areas looked well - among those admired were St. Josephs Road, Ashgrove, Spring Gardens and St. Conleth's Place. Kingfurze Avenue was in a league of its own with an exceptionally high standard of presentation with regard to the green area and tasteful landscaping. Kerbs were virtually weed free and road surfaces good.