

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallins** Ref: **384**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **215**
Category: **D** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	215

Overall Development Approach:

Sallins is welcomed to the competition for 2008 and thank you for the completed Entry Form including the useful Map. Your six members have been energetic and active during the year working with Kildare County Council and, no doubt other agencies. Please give thought to drafting a 3-5 year programme. Such a plan when devised in consultation with the wider community will help to isolate the main items and issues needing attention over time. It will aid you in selecting items for priority action and identify those agencies who are best equipped to take the lead role in such projects. As a desirable offshoot the process of consulting with the community stake holders will often generate additional volunteers for you. In addition, the existence of a multi annual plan of itself will garner additional marks under this heading. The difficulties with your derelict site at the canal bridge are ongoing. Huge new commercial developments with major sized office blocks awaiting tenants are a feature of the town at the moment. By contrast the small scale enterprises on the way to the GAA pitch looked busy, inviting and vibrant. The canal harbour was choc a bloc with vessels. The railway seemed to have a number of items, perhaps now redundant such as the water tower, which are in need of paint and care.

The Built Environment:

The Sallins Medical Centre looked quite well while the Little Angels crèche and Montessori caught the eye. Very colourful bars in the harbour area of the canal were well presented notably Flanagan's Mill, Bridge Water and the Orchard. The new school was very well presented with good planting to the front and the grass was pleasantly cut. The extent of new commercial offices and buildings is almost overwhelming and when fully occupied and active will have a material impact on traffic flows.

Landscaping:

The GAA grounds (1994) are well presented, the Gate would benefit from being repainted in their original

green and white. Presentation of the Canal, around the Harbour area is of a very high order but on the opposite side of the bridge the proximity of the ruined site detracts more than a little from the overall scene. The grounds, shrubs and planting in the new business park achieved high order and the same is true of the extensive new housing estates. The presentation of the approach roads have also received considerable attention and are well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proximity of the canal is the natural focal point of wildlife and bird activity. Other locations in the centre are not to be overlooked in this regard. The grounds of the new school with its already established good planting to the fore should also be examined in this context. Many school authorities are of the view that exposure to flora and fauna are an integral element in human development. Seek the services of a local enthusiast, perhaps a member of Bird watch Ireland for example, who may be willing to draft a suitable programme for you to then approach the school management.

Litter Control:

The Clane Road was somewhat marred by the extent of litter. There were appropriate sized and suitably located litterbins in the Harbour area. The remainder of the town apart from a few minor outbreaks was relatively unspoiled.

Waste Minimisation:

We applaud your practise of segregating litter in as far as it is possible and then utilising the appropriate bins for its disposal. This category is very much about securing a change in the mindset of the community and indeed at individual household level. It is critical that everyone play their part in the reduction of waste generation and the reduction in the use of energy. The second side of the same coin is to bring about the reduction of waste being carted to landfill sites by a policy of reusing items where feasible and recycling wherever possible.

Tidiness:

With the near completion of the various extensive building programmes there has been an improvement in the presentation of Sallins and this is likely to improve still further when all the projects have reached completion. Graffiti continues to be a difficulty and we appreciate this particularly difficult form of anti-social behaviour is hard to eradicate. Some locations have bowed to the reality and then used it to advantage by designation an 'official graffiti location' to at least localise and thereby contain its expression. While not recommending it – it is a thought that perhaps the large blank side wall of the abandoned factory on the opposite side of the bridge to the harbour might suggest itself as a location - if it were decided to experiment with this concept.

Residential Areas:

Sallins Park divided into Sallins Lawn, Grove, Crescent, Court, Close, Rise and Walk are largely well presented. The individual communal grassed areas in each looked well and had been recently cut with an appropriate amount of planting. There were a small number of weeds only. The roads were recently swept and looked very well. However, there were no flowerbeds except at the entrance area which was very well presented. St. Brigid's Terrace, a long established settlement with some new building in progress displayed varying standards of individual house presentation. Sallins Bridge is a new development while the sizeable Waterways Development was well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new pavement on the Clane Road is a distinct improvement. There were some spoil and loose shale on the pavements which simple brushing would materially improve. The road surface on the approach to the GAA field is alarmingly poor. Signage for the Grand Canal walk way needs to be washed. The most interesting history of the Canal display board would benefit from refurbishing.

General Impression:

Sallins has experienced the most expansive period in its history perhaps since the original arrival of the canals in the 1760's. The village is coming to terms with its substantial additional housing stock and business park without in any way losing its attractive canal village feel. The picturesque centre piece continues to be the area around the bridge and harbour which is well presented. There continues the long-term difficulty of the very large derelict mill and the TidyTowns should have discussions in respect of this issue with the local authorities and if possible the representatives of the current owners. Despite the various constraints and upheavals Sallins continues to advance in the TidyTowns which is a great tribute to you and the supporters of the TidyTowns concept.

All involved with this year's entry are applauded for their efforts and wished well in 2009.

