

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Suncroft** Ref: **386**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **213**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to this years competition and thank you for the completed entry form and map which were very useful on the day of adjudication. Your four volunteers have done much to be applauded and especially your presentation to the school last September which led to their seeking Green Flag Status. The help and involvement of the GAA Club is also a strong plus.

The village name plate is well presented, engraved into a fine large stone with suitable shrubs behind. The involvement of the village in the UN Veterans movement is worthy of note and their white and blue painted centre is very well presented.

The Built Environment:

The charming thatched cottage described as Katie's Cottage and with an indicated date of 1600 certainly caught the eye as did The Scissors Sisters in Ashfield. Suncroft Nursing Home was very well presented. Mooreswell Public House looked well with hanging baskets. The Catholic Church was delightfully well presented with both the poles and the capping stones of the wall picked out in crisp, white paint. The Carna Lodge beside the cemetery looked very well and was very well presented.

Landscaping:

There are an impressive number of trees planted along the roadways and these are maturing with each passing year. The games pitch near Askinraw Drive was neat and well presented. There was also an excellent amenity display in the same area. The green and red pump in Purselstown Green caught the eye. The old cemetery opposite the UN centre is well maintained with planters outside it adding a flash of colour to the ground planting and trees. The Grotto opposite the Church was looking very well on the day of adjudication. The rockery above the school was colourful and well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In recent years additional weight has been given to activities in this regard and the promotion of wildlife especially bird life has been accorded greater attention as an important element within the overall Tidy Towns programme. Is it possible to secure 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? With this available it may then be appropriate to approach the school management with a view to creating a nature habitat within their grounds.

Litter Control:

There was not any one black spot in the litter sense, rather there was a number of locations where minor amounts were noted. Your monthly litter pick up sessions, which we understand are ongoing, are clearly having a beneficial effect

Waste Minimisation:

The National School has acquired Green Flag Status and this is indeed a great achievement. Congratulations to all involved and well done to the TT committee who raised the prospect last September.

This category is as much about getting all the community – not just the school children, although that is a very good place to start - to reduce the generation of waste in all its forms. In effect it requires a change of mindset in both the community and at individual household level to the issue. Considerable guidance is readily available; Read the booklet from Race against Waste which offers many helpful guidelines on the process which best begins with an audit of waste, how it is generated both by individual households and in the community in general. Help and advice is also available from Kildare County Council Environment Department with whom you might consider staging a waste awareness workshop. The Green Flag programme for Schools is also of course an excellent source of good ideas.

Tidiness:

Many aspects intrude for good or ill within the tidiness category. Your plans to clear all the road signs are commended and worthwhile. Traffic staining is a real problem with many road signs which can also become unsighted due to encroaching grass and vegetation. There is an amount of loose stones and shale in the area of the cemetery entrance which would be greatly improved by simply brushing the road here. Some weeds are also in evidence in the same area.

Residential Areas:

Ashfield is a fine development of detached and semi-detached homes which are very well presented. The communal grassed area is suitably planted and looked well. There is however a tendency to permit grass and weeds to remain outside the fine kerbstones. Church View Estate (1973) is a 1988 tidy town winner. New fencing in an estate was looking well. Eascanrath Brook is a work in progress as is Prusselstown Green. Hawthorn Wood is a fine new development with Askinraw Drive a further housing estate. Rivendell is a very well presented private house.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In smaller villages approach roads are very much the 'shop window' helping to project the ethos and standards to be found in the village proper. They accordingly call for special attention and effort. The traffic calming device inclusive of the village name plate is an excellent introduction to Suncroft. The strong yellow and black barrier just behind would be much more impressive if it were just washed. The signs directly behind the traffic calming might be looked at, the old village name plate, can hardly be seen because of its position while both it and the Caution Children Crossing sign seem to have reached the end of their usefulness and ought to be replaced or certainly repositioned.

General Impression:

Your revitalised committee are to be congratulated on your progress to date and for the manner in which you are coming to grips with some of the difficulties in your village. Spend some time in discussion and set down on paper some ideas and items you propose to undertake in a three or five year programme. Such a plan, devised in consultation with the wider community, will help to isolate the main items and issues needing attention over time; will aid you in selecting items for priority action and enable you to identify those agencies who are best equipped to take the lead role in some projects. As a desirable off shoot the process of consulting with the community will often generate additional volunteers for you. In addition the existence of a multi-annual plan itself will garner additional marks in this competition.

