

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Timolin** Ref: **387**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **226**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to this years competition and thank you for the completed entry form, Plan 2007- 2012 incorporating the most useful map which we were glad to have on the day of adjudication. Your committee of ten have made great progress and clearly a number of the community also support and aid your activities. The historic Saint Mullins Church is a delight and has continued to be very well maintained since its restoration in 1997. The house and garden on the left leading to the Church is also a delight and complements to the owners. Welcome walk area (2006) is marked by colourful planting, the introduction of suitable shrubs would help to give this area a year round presence. Byrne Car Sales location is very well presented being neat and orderly. We noted the small ER post box.

The Built Environment:

O'Briens Bar looked very well and was adorned by good planters and flowers. The School did look well and was neat, free of litter or any untidiness in the grounds around it on the day of adjudication. The Latin plaque which we were unable to decipher was intriguing and we wondered at the history of the house to which it is affixed. The Church of Ireland building itself was very well presented but the wall to the side road needs to be repaired.

Landscaping:

The fine stand of trees on the approach from the N9 is most impressive as are the trees on the opposite side of the road. The black railings and low level shrubs looked very well. The flowers and decoration in the centre of the village with the well presented facades of the former terrace as a back drop worked well. The little wheel barrow tyre needs attention – try filling it with water or use a discrete bar behind to take the weight off the punctured tyre – given of course that it is not simply a matter to pump it up in the normal manner!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We were delighted to be greeted by a small flock of Ginny hens on arrival. Your decision to eliminate the use of weed-killers and pesticides is welcomed as is the plan to position planting in clusters to encourage wildlife. Your programme for the next years makes it very clear that you are fully informed on the requirements of an active and growing bird life population.

Litter Control:

Apart from a regretted and surprising falling from your normal standard on the approach from N9 the village is free from disfiguring litter. Well done. Your daily pick ups and involvement in the Spring Clean project is clearly having a beneficial impact.

Waste Minimisation:

Your plans make it clear that there is a growing and already wide spread understanding of the need to recycle materials and so cut down the extent of dependence on landfill sites. This category is as much about getting the community to consider methods of reducing the generation of waste 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.

Tidiness:

There was a pile of sand at the junction with the 'Old' Dublin road now closed off. If this is not required it should be removed. The road itself was very well presented being recently swept. There is clearly a difficulty with efforts to enhance the presentation of the large trucking company in the village centre. Is additional screening a prospect here? In the meantime the fine silver painted railing and its small base wall in front of the house would benefit from being painted before next years competition.

Residential Areas:

The normal high standards of the Terrace were again in evidence this year with the communal grassed area well cut and presented. Watch the tendency for weeds and grass to spill out over the kerb stones as this can distract quite a lot from an overall good impression. In some cases weeds were in evidence outside the front facing walls.

The fine new house below the pub look very well. The heavy cap of one of the imposing stone pillars leading to the back yard has not been secured to the pillar and continues to be at an angle.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The small village roads are well maintained and appear to have been recently swept. Well done. Speed limit signs on the N9 approach were well presented but the Village Name Plate required to be washed for best effect. We note the work in progress to lay pavement at this end of the village. The road surface at the junction here, outside Woodland House requires some attention as it is below par. The road towards Moone is very well set with well cut hedges and verges and speed limit signs clean and free of trees or any danger of being partly obscured by encroaching vegetation.

General Impression:

Timolin is a real find; a village with a deep and interesting past reflected in the historic buildings and lay out of the area. The present generation are building on that past and in doing so are helping to create a better future for all. All involved with this year's entry are warmly thanked, applauded and congratulated for their efforts and wished well in 2009