

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Templeorum** Ref: **225**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **210**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **18/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>210</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

It was encouraging to see the continuation of your Strategic Plan for another two years and it is hoped that you will be able to achieve the proposals set out in it, because we were a bit disappointed by progress as seen in the village this year. There seemed to have been a pause in essential maintenance work in some, though not all, categories. The information given on your entry form, too, was somewhat sparse – if you had provided a fuller description of your activities you would certainly have obtained additional marks. For example, you mention support given by Kilkenny County Council but do not tell us what this support was in practice, and you mention that you engage with the local school by talking to the pupils but you do not tell us what the pupils then do in the effort to enhance their village. Your diagrammatic map seemed to show some areas incorrectly, for example the position of the road leading on from the front of the former RIC barracks and this was confusing. These may be small issues but they add up to give a negative impression in a village which has been so strong on annual development in the past. It is expected that this is merely a temporary slowdown.

### **The Built Environment:**

The splendid church that forms the central focus of the village in its interesting graveyard was well maintained, but the remarkable belfry gate looked neglected because of the weedy stonework. The pleasant school with its unusual style-type pedestrian entrances needed its gable wall freshened up with paint, and the yellow railings also needed painting. The handsome stone hall (perhaps a former school) was marred by its weedy frontage. Part of the former RIC barracks appeared to be vacant, though it was hard to ascertain if this was in fact so – do give more information about the buildings on your entry form.

### **Landscaping:**

Roadside planting was admired and the floral tubs added considerably to the charm of the village but

unfortunately the two tubs at the belfry gate seemed to have been forgotten since last year. The garden corner of the church car park surrounding the handsome information board was badly neglected, a real pity because this should rightly be an impressive visual element. Last year's adjudicator mentioned this, but there had obviously been considerable weed growth since then so that the nice paving was almost invisible. (Incidentally, ragwort is illegal, which is another good reason to attend to this area.)

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

It is commendable that you preserve the area near the school in the interests of wild life. You do not say if the school pupils take an active or passive interest; if active, there would certainly be additional marks here if we knew of their activities – for example, there might be a competition for the identification of trees, the neighbourhood being so rich in varieties of timber; or to list and illustrate birds seen. Mention was made last year of the possibility of signposted walks – in other centres these have become very popular with hikers.

#### **Litter Control:**

Bins looked new. Litter control was reasonably good. There was, however, some litter in the car park and also along the wall opposite the school – in these places it looked as if the litter had been there for some time. It is easier to keep villages litter-free than towns so this was surprising. In some villages individuals or families or school classes are each assigned to look after small areas, with the result that there is constant vigilance and litter-picking need only take a few minutes in each area, if needed at all. In this way, young people become used to taking pride in their native place

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

You have left this section of the entry form blank, so it is assumed that you have not made progress under this heading. Last year's adjudicator recommended that you read the 'Race against Waste' booklet – you will surely find helpful suggestions in it that will meet your case. since last year

#### **Tidiness:**

You are correct in stating that unfinished houses are a cause of untidiness, especially as they are so prominent. It is certain that you are encouraging developers to tidy up. Your efforts were successful in having an untidy premises near the Post Office completely improved. There was considerable kerbside weed in a number of places, and some verges were quite unkempt – to give only one example, the verge immediately opposite the former RIC barracks badly needed trimming. The same suggestion may be made as for litter control, that certain groups or classes be given responsibility for sections of roadside; this works most effectively elsewhere. The worst example of untidiness has already been referred to as the planted area of the car park at the information board, a potentially lovely corner that was inexplicable neglected this year.

#### **Residential Areas:**

This is certainly a category that has improved considerably since last year – congratulations, and thank you for drawing attention to a beautifully repainted single-storey house. The homes of Templeorum are clearly maintained with pride. Nowhere is better looked after than the lovely stone wall frontage of 'Hunter's Lodge', with its subtle planting that contrives to look so natural. Some first class wood fences were also favourably noted, such as at the fine pink house on the corner near the church.

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

The car park was spic and span, with well-marked spaces. Pavements were generally good and road surfaces good.

#### **General Impression:**

As noted above, some of the categories were disappointing this year but it is expected that these were due to temporary neglect only. Others, as noted, did well, and congratulations are in order. With standards rising everywhere it is essential to keep up the hard work and not get left behind. It is confidently believed that Templeorum has the capacity to fare much better next year, and this will be eagerly looked forward to.