

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tullahought** Ref: **404**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **278**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	43
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>278</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your entry form did not arrive with the adjudicator until 16 June by which time he had visited the other centres in the neighbourhood; it meant going back to South Kilkenny, but the journey was well worth it, for the magic of Tullahought compensated for the slight inconvenience. Your entry submission was crammed with interesting information. It is some years since this adjudicator was in Tullahought and progress has been exceptionally good in the meantime. He had not previously realised the number of prehistoric sites in the neighbourhood, or Tullahought's proximity to the early-Christian site at Ahenny. The whole countryside is full of interest. What you have been doing to expose and improve your neighbourhood has been very valuable. It is no surprise to read that you are receiving visitors to see what you have done. Mention below of features and sites is they are exceptionally impressive or in some cases not quite up to standard; it may be taken that places not mentioned are satisfactory. It is good to see that we are in the second year of your Development Plan, that you have plenty of co-operation from the official bodies, and of course the work would not be possible without the complete assistance of local volunteers: congratulations especially to these dedicated people.

### The Built Environment:

The church and the community centre were spic and span on the date of the visit, also the nearby buildings. It was good to see the renovation and expansion in progress of a previously vacant house and that it is being completed in the traditional style. The work at Knockeen Bridge, still under way, was greatly admired; the use of native stone here, and in previously completed schemes, in altogether admirable.

### Landscaping:

The fountain surmounted by stone opposite the beautifully presented information board impressed this adjudicator perhaps more than anything else, with the seating and discreet planting. A most delightful spot has

been created; would that the same were the case in many other centres. It was nice to find, throughout the area – for it is an area rather than a village in the usual sense – that planting is diverse: herbaceous borders and shrubs for year-round show, and not confined to bedding plants. The charming landscaping at the viewing tower is a case in point, and also the surrounds of the car park. The trim lawns on either side of the long main road – it is not really a street – reveal a huge amount of work. (This road caused some wonderment at why there should be a straight boulevard-type thoroughfare with wide verges and accompanying trees in such a place?) Voluntary helpers were observed keeping this lengthy space in good order. Tubs and other small planting were admired throughout.

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

The natural environment of Tullhought is full of surprises, not least the slate quarries. Trees are properly considered under this heading; the vast number of indigenous broadleaves are well tended. Your recent tree planting complements this and keeps the tree stock in continuous revitalisation. Few localities could be better equipped for designated walks; these are well mapped and signposted; the variety of countryside through which they meander is astonishing, and the views opened up can only be described as stunning. It is good to read that you have placed bird boxes and a hedgehog box: it would be interesting to know how much these residences are taken up by tenants. The sequence of lakes and streams with weirs caters for a different kind of wild life; sedges, willow, iris and other damp-loving plants and trees were seen.

### **Litter Control:**

Hardly any disposable litter was seen. Congratulations on those who occupy time overseeing this unfortunately necessary component of village and town life. It was encouraging to read that you 'take action against offenders'. It would be interesting to know what action was taken and what effect it had in order to suggest it to other committees as effective.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The items that you list, such as recycling timber for bird boxes, flower containers from sawmill offcuts, etc, is practical recycling. Conventional recycling may be seen at your very tidy Bring Bank, which is centrally situated yet discreetly placed off the road. Helpers were seen on the afternoon of the visit cleaning the bins.

### **Tidiness:**

Tullhought is a relatively tidy village and there were no obvious incidences of untidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

Tullhought is neither a residential area in the usual sense nor is it a non-residential area! Fine homes are dispersed throughout the community. Farms were seen to be very well kept. It is with a real sense of pleasure that the country-bred visitor now living in the city can walk again through and alongside well tended yards and barns and farm entrances. Particularly noted were the whitewashed walls and gables and the gates painted in bright red or blue, as well as several well maintained timber gates. The derelict house in course of reconstruction has been noted above.

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

The car park at the church was spic and span. Work on Knockeen bridge has already been mentioned. You state that the hardcore on the Carrick road has been put down by yourselves – should this not be a function of the County Council, or perhaps it is? Certainly the Council should recognise your extraordinary work by providing a better surface to the long central road.

### **General Impression:**

It is very hard to find words sufficient to compliment the work done by this community. At one time this adjudicator suggested that there should be a special category for 'tidy districts' as distinct from Tidy Towns, but as there were very few of the former the idea was not taken up. Had it been, Tullhought would certainly have taken the major award hands down. Congratulations on your creativity, your imaginative responses and your unending hard work. It is hoped that you will continue to prosper.