

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Enfield** Ref: **578**  
County: **Meath** Mark: **262**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>262</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Enfield Environment Group for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for the beautifully presented town map which supplied the adjudicator with all of the information needed to get around the town. A special thank you for the various photos which gave some flavour of Enfield before arrival. It would not have been possible to find that derelict building were it not for the photo, a measure of the success of the work done by the youth club. A further thanks and congratulations for your 3-5 Year Plan. For the purposes of this competition it would help if the plan submitted followed the various section layout. Nonetheless many of the issues covered are the issues that interest this competition also. You are now at a moment in your planning wherein you must begin to assess progress in the present plan. As part of next year's submission you might give an update on the works that are outstanding, on the agencies that will assist in the progress of these works and you might share with us how these works will be funded. It is obvious that you have the goodwill of many in your community. Well done on encouraging the various estates to form resident associations and on the inter estate competitions. This work not only raises the standards of presentation in the estates but it also gives your group a positive profile among the residents. Your many initiatives, for instance your involvement with the Meath Pride of Place competition, help promote the wellbeing of Enfield. One hopes that you see the rewards that your present efforts merit in the near future. In this context the victory of St Mary's National School in the schools' section must have been most gratifying for you. Your engagement with this school seems to be of benefit to both school and group. One senses a strong sense of frustration over matters that annoy your group and one empathises with you. At least most of the trucks are doing the honourable thing and affording your residents some peace from the relentless traffic. Your enthusiasm deserves reward.

### **The Built Environment:**

The mainstreet and the street by the school represent the central, focal point of the traditional town. Enfield has succeeded in maintaining much of its character in this area despite that radical change of usage over the years. What is most gratifying is that your group seems to have a finger on the Enfield pulse. Your concerns over a Community Centre, over library, over park and ride facilities for a dormitory town and a Garda station are symptomatic of a group keen to promote a strong sense of community. You need the buildings to house these services. So stay in touch with the forces that have the influence, as you have done with the local TD.

These new buildings will also enhance your town vista just as the Credit Union building has already done. At present the most impressive buildings in Enfield are the bridges that have been so important in the town's commerce in the past. These bridges bring to mind the canal and railway eras and are beautiful constructions. Back to the street for a moment: great work is being done to brighten up the street and to enliven it. Just ensure that landscaping is not neglected as this will detract from the efforts of Flatterys and the Prime Saddlery to keep the spirits up. Your encouragement to the Youth Club to paint and brighten the derelict building as shown on the photo is a bold and imaginative venture and the best of luck with it in the Pride of Place. Already your effort has been rewarded. It is clear that you are aware of the effect of dereliction on your streetscape and landscape and are acting on this matter.

### **Landscaping:**

The true nature of Enfield is lost if one does not leave the car and take the canal walk. Every step and one is surrounded by impeccable work. Nature is alive and welcoming and has been groomed to the advantage of man and beast alike. The Coarse Angling Board should be replicated with the same presentation and information on birds and flora. The landscaping is wonderful, using carefully designed tiering down to the canal. The bridges have been mentioned already. The Leisure Park has been embellished with fabulous lamps, a great information board and, again, wonderful landscaping. Seats, bins, anti litter notices, dainty pathways, trees planted by named individuals, a history of the Royal Canal. The sleepers are in keeping with the importance of the railway. At the overpass the landscaping is magnificent. The adjudicator felt at home even in the rain. One felt the heartbeat of generations. If this landscaping were replicated throughout the village .... The adjudicator must have got lost in the Millenium Wood because no focal point was reached. Nonetheless it is another wonderland walk, though surrounded by wilderness this time, natural wilderness. All other landscaping experience in Enfield pales to nothing compared with the above. Yet floral arrangements, landscaping at the entrance to estates play a vital role in any landscaping plan for your town and are also admired.

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

The walks described above are gifts to the wildlife of Enfield. It is encouraging to note that in your plans you are aware of the need for information boards. There is a unique opportunity for further development of amenities in the area.

### **Litter Control:**

One is delighted to state that a very small amount of litter was encountered on the visit to Enfield. Well done on your various initiatives to control the litter. Involvement in the Meath County Council Anti Litter League, involvement with the school, clean-ups, all contribute in their own way to the development of a litter conscience. The anti litter notices in the Leisure Park are prominent enough to evoke a positive response and visitors seem to be responding as wished.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The adjudicator did not find the compost bank but is pleased at your enterprise. Have you made any attempt to organise a compost bin scheme for individual houses? Segregation of the litter is also a good practice. One notes that your 3-5 Year Plan does not have an entry in this section.

### **Tidiness:**

While there appears to have been a major improvement in the volumes of traffic through town, it is still a busy town and this tends to create an unease. The traffic calming measures are important and effective. Advertising along the approach roads adds to this sense of unease. One wonders if you have any control over much of this hoarding. Meath County Council need to be made aware of the situation to ascertain if this advertising is consistent with that Council's development plan for Enfield. Just as some of the advertising is out of date so too are some of the poles spotted about. Weeds create a feeling of neglect and the relevant authority needs to have pressure kept on it in controlling roadside weeds. Also, watch out for graffiti.

### **Residential Areas:**

Your enterprise in encouraging the estates to form associations may be an important factor in the high

standards that were found in many of the estates. Regrettably not all estates attained the kind of standard you have in mind and there is a big problem with one area on the Edenderry side. In general entrances to estates are beautifully landscaped, the houses appear to be cared for, there is pride about the surrounds of those houses also. Most times open space is well maintained, tree planting brings hope of further improved appearance in the future. But it is not only the new estates can feel proud. Johnston Way is an older estate and its brick and pebble can match anything from the modern houses. The landscaping here is maturing very well. it is nice to see the Gaeilge as at Delmere Estate. The sight of goalposts, even if they are not regulation size, portrays a sense of community.

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

The approach roads are the traveller's introduction to town and it is wonderful to have a welcome proclaimed as one approaches. We are told that Enfield is a heritage town and the trees seem to confirm that declaration. As the road network develops around the town it is wonderful to see that tree planting is proceeding apace. The Dublin Road is already looking well and has great potential as an introduction to Enfield as the landscaping develops. In time the new roundabouts are going to develop into beautifully landscaped plots and will enhance the periphery of Enfield. For now they are a work in progress. As a general comment there is not sufficient consistency in the maintenance of the grass verges.

### **General Impression:**

Having read your comprehensive submission one felt excited about the visit to Enfield. It was clear from the submission that the people in the TidyTown committee were very ambitious while at the same time realistic about the challenges facing any such committee in a developing town. So one was not so sure what to expect. In fact both your interest and your frustrations are represented on the ground. One sees the two sides but most of all one senses the possibilities that Enfield has. Best of luck to you as you deal with the new road systems and good luck also as you assimilate your new town dwellers into your community.