

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cadamstown** Ref: **547**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **267**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	267

Overall Development Approach:

Many thanks Cadamstown TidyTowns Committee's submission for TidyTowns 2008 which was read with great interest. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Offaly County Council, Leader and FAS. You would also appear to have a good communications network with the local community. Work in relation to the development of derelict sites is to be encouraged and we wish you luck with these endeavours. The provision of wheelchair access to the picnic area and mill areas are commendable projects.

The Built Environment:

Dempsey's Pub and its vicinity was well maintained on the day, with an attractive planted bed. There are a wealth of fine traditional buildings in the village. Don't forget outbuildings when considering overall presentation - paint the tin roofs of sheds and whitewash walls where necessary. There is fine red stone walling at the entrance to the village on the Clonaslee Road. The church looked well with magnificent grounds. Cadamstown is fortunate in its wealth of heritage being, as it is, in close proximity to an old monastic site. Work to the boundary wall, railings and gates of the church were noted. Plans for work to the public car park and picnic area and in relation to derelict sites were noted and are looked forward to. The dolmen on hill is a wonderful piece of heritage. The marvellous old mill surrounded by michaelmas daisies and roses was greatly admired.

Landscaping:

The riverside area looked quite magnificent. The landscaped area near the Tea and Craft shop was admired. And the picnic area by the riverside in the vicinity of Hickey's looked extremely well. Work to the planting of existing rockeries and maintenance of the picnic area and church grounds are commendable. We look forward to seeing your work in relation to the planting of native trees along the Silver River, which is a well worthwhile project.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Set in some magnificent scenery at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Cadamstown is indeed fortunate. It has a wealth of fine walks and is terminus for the Offaly Way. Silver River eco-walk is a marvellous idea, as is the work in relation to hedgerows. We look forward to seeing your future wildlife pond.

Litter Control:

The Bring Bank area was very neat and clean on the day with no evidence of dumping. Work with the local children in relation to litter clean ups and patrols and recycling are all commendable. The daily litter patrol is a good idea. A drinks can was spotted in river.

Waste Minimisation:

The encouragement of local residents to use the recycling facility is a good initiative, as is the composting of hedge-clippings and grass trimmings. Have you considered conducting composting workshops for the local community, as well as the basic information leaflet you propose?

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. However, do discourage fly-posting. Maintenance of signage and weed control is a good initiative. Are you using environmentally friendly products? We look forward to seeing your new signage along the Kinnity and Clonaslee Roads. The frame to the wildlife sign at picnic area was rusty, and should be attended to.

Residential Areas:

A new house appeared to be going in on the Clonaslee Road but there was little evidence of any structural work yet, the site had just been cleared, and we look forward to seeing its completion. Some attractive planting beside a yellow house on the Birr side of the village was greatly admired. Ongoing work to stone walls, stone piers and fencing is commendable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Along the Birr Road the grass had been cut but the dead grass had not yet been removed. The road surface was a little rough in this area and the nameplates slightly grubby. Signage on the Clonaslee Road was obscured by overgrowth but besides this the standards of roads was generally quite good. Plans for the re-surfacing of the car park and main road are looked forward to. The maintenance of walls and fences along roadsides are commendable.

General Impression:

Cadamstown is a charming village which the adjudicator had the pleasure of re-visiting after many years absence. It was delightful to see it still has retained its unique character.