

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annestown** Ref: **646**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **247**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	1
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and map of the lovely village of Annestown on what was a bright week end morning.

This was the adjudicator's very first visit to this lovely seaside place and certainly will return at a later stage during the summer for a more leisurely visit.

Last years report referred to a detailed work document but unfortunately there was no supportive material included with this year's application. I am wondering did you forget to attaché or was it mislaid before it got to the adjudicator.

Any way that should not unduly affect this report as the adjudicator spent some additional time in the village to ensure that all categories were well covered.

The committee of 5 has been very proactive in its dealings with both Waterford County Council and FAS through the local villages group.

Being part of the Copper Coast brand has meant that Annestown will be promoted on an equal footing as a tourism destination with the rest of the partners in this industrial heritage initiative.

One also appreciates that you have only re entered the TidyTowns competition in latter years and that you are building for the years ahead.

The Built Environment:

Each village has its own unique infrastructure and heritage that sets it apart from its neighbours.

Annestown has this appealing expansive wide street that that actually encourages visitors to stop and explore and appreciate the surrounding area adjacent to the beautiful coast line

To retain this uniqueness in an era of accelerated infrastructural change and in deed to embrace that change to benefit of ones community is the key.

The Village has succeeded in doing this and this is very much reflected in the Built Environment in the village as the traditional features not alone been retained but enhanced by application of a prudent painting regime. Annestown House and grounds dominate the village at the lower end a link with past era. Seiview Celtic FC is an excellently maintained grounds and credit is due to the club members that were instrumental in developing the facilities to this level. The beach area and the link to it were well presented but the existing notice board needs to be replaced as it now both dated and tatty.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements in the Village and its immediate surrounds, especially the approach roads, were very appropriate. You have made good choices in low maintenance shrubs and various colourful annuals and perennials. The existing tree population has been augmented. Like all seaside areas wildflowers abound and a walk about the beach area and to the outskirts will reveal some very interesting varieties. One particular type of colourful rock plant akin to sedum was very prevalent. There were a number excellent private gardens and container planting displays and what was very noticeable was the healthy state of the plants it must be the nutrients from the seaweed. The car park at the beach is a little bleak, the dated concrete post and rail already, mentioned in a previous section, should in the long term be replaced by appropriate hedging supplemented by some planters populated by annuals and perennials.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Committee should consider getting advice from the County Wildlife Ranger or equivalent person on how to develop a wild life project as this would benefit the community and would identify with the immediate area. Annestown would probably be the envy of many similar sized centres in that it has such a variety of wild life habitats.

There are many areas in the village and the surrounding beach area that could be identified as suitable for simple projects such as wild flower gardens and or information notice boards. It would be a pity not to avail of professional expertise to help you develop some project ideas and also it would be a good way of involving the school children in getting to know their village and its wildlife history.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good particularly as the village was inspected early on a Sunday morning after the week end.

The beach area was quite clean except for a few packets at the entrance to car park, now with busy days during the up coming traditional holiday period is a different matter.

All you can do is spread the message of anti litter and ensure that Waterford County Council has sufficient bins in place.

It sounds like a repetitive mantra but do get the school children involved in any planned activity that you may do as a committee.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a category that caused more than a little confusion amongst applicants over the last two years.

It is noted that you have not addressed it on the application form which is more the pity as it is a category that marks can be gained in quite readily.

Consult the Race Against Waste website or get in touch with the local environmental officer to bounce some ideas with that may lead to a project.

To encourage you as a committee to get started a mark has been awarded under this category heading. I will look forward to seeing progress in next year's application form.

Tidiness:

Annestown has a very tidy appearance as one enters, the wide street and symmetry of the houses as the village slopes downwards as one exits towards the Dungarvan end helps to create that impression.

The fact that the village is so tidy is down to both the local people and indeed the work that you the Committee have done in promoting tidiness in the Community.

The few areas that are still causing concern are those mentioned in last year's report so maybe the committee might be in a position to influence those responsible to make good those areas.

The concrete post and rail fencing at the beach car park needs to be painted and the little link from the village

to the said beach can get overgrown so be vigilant.

Residential Areas:

Annestown does not have any group housing estate and if there are plans to develop lets hope that any new houses will be built in keeping with present village infrastructure.

The village itself is the main residential area and as already observed and commented upon there is a nice mix of colour applied to premises in the village with some homesteads further enhanced by having nice containers filled with marigolds and other annuals.

One or two had climbing roses in the front of houses this was a pleasant departure from the norm and the owners of those premises are to be complimented.

One wishes that Annestown will retain its small seaside village charm and that it will not fall prey to over development in the future, a little period of economic harshness might put a halt to this over acceleration of development that we have witnessed especially in the last 5 years.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The adjudicator has already mentioned that the overhead wires should be ducted and when you are lobbying for this do make a plea for new street lighting as well.

If these two actions were undertaken within the next three years under your auspices as a committee it would be a major achievement and a major bonus for the village.

Local councillors need to be lobbied to get these actions off the ground so it's up to you as a committee to seize the initiative and put their resolve to the test.

Reverting back to basics all entrances in to the Village were well presented, the Bunmahon entrance being particularly scenic with an inviting and well positioned name sign displaying the Geopark and Copper Coast logos.

General Impression:

My first visit to Annestown was a pleasant and it encourages me to come back again sooner rather than later. The pride of place is very evident amongst the local residents as the village was well presented and would tempt any visitor to stay and experience its charm.

You have the advantage of a lovely beach and you should exploit this to your advantage by lobbying to have car park area up graded.

Some progress has been made since last year's adjudication; unfortunately one did not have the benefit of a work plan to accompany the application form hopefully that will be rectified prior to next year's competition.

Well done to one and all and do keep up the good work.