

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Cappoquin** Ref: **853**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **252**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>252</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the concise and informative application form complete with detailed sketch map of the Cappoquin and its environs.

Its been a while since this adjudicator visited Cappoquin but it certainly was a place that was familiar to me in my youth when I spent some time as a pupil in near by Mount Mellary and indeed hurred on a few occasions in Cappoquin grounds and was familiar with all those places mentioned in the excellent Heritage guide which I acquired in Kelliher's Supervalu in the Town.

It was nice to comeback to witness many of the positive changes that have occurred in this historic town on the majestic Backwater.

The TidyTowns committee has worked very hard over the years to facilitate change,it has built up an excellent relationship with Waterford County Council, local organisations and clubs and the Community in general

The work plan that you have undertaken is both realistic and practical and while the Committee seems a little large at 22 it is obvious that you have a sub committee structure in place.

It was good to note that you have a good rapport with the local schools,it is important to foster that relationship to its fullest as youth will flourish when encouraged.

There is a real sense of pride of place in your town and long may it continue.

### The Built Environment:

It is very pleasing to report,that despite all the change that has occurred in the Town, places of significance that have been long gone are remembered by the excellent stone plaques embedded in the footpaths. O Connors Bacon Factory and the Desmond were synonymous with the town in my youth as were the Daly family that founded the Cappoquin Rowing Club.

Well done to whoever had the foresight to undertake this initiative.

The Cappoquin Rowing Club is now housed in a magnificent split level clubhouse at the Lismore end. The town has undergone such dramatic change over the last two decades but it still retains its old character as an estate town and isn't it pleasing to see old shop fronts like T Uniackes and Kenny's still retained. Dereliction is, like in many other similar sized towns, a problem and all the committee can do is to encourage owners of vacant or run down properties to make good these.

A for sale was noted on the Misericordia building and one sincerely hopes that any refurbishment that takes place will be subject to strict planning conditions, such buildings should not be allowed to be totally raised to the ground.

Personally I think that it is rather sad to see the Old Convent National School totally demolished for the sake of progress - I wonder at times what the word really means.

The town has seen its fair share of new development over the last few years some very in keeping with the existing structure some not so good.

There are still sites in the throes of preparation for additional development – lets hope that these are not left in semi abeyance because of economic downturn.

Both the GAA Club and Soccer Club, with its state of the art facilities, deserve praise for the manner in which both Grounds are presented.

The following commercial premises appealed to this adjudicator and it is not a reflection on other premises that they have not been mentioned ; BT Lincoln, Toby Jug, which has a nice bright colour combination and the Tavern.

Further down Cavanagh Hall off Mill Street is a good example of the new blending in with the old.

Both churches were well maintained as were the Schools, excellent national School with play facilities adjacent.

Both the Fire station and Garda Station, with its excellent landscaping arrangement, are good examples of well maintained public service buildings.

The Health Centre in common with many experienced around the country could do with an up lift.

### **Landscaping:**

The standard and appropriateness of communal landscaping arrangements is on par with other similar sized towns in the country.

Prudent planting allows for year round impact and Cappoquin has succeeded in achieving this.

Annual such as begonias, alyssum, tagetes and the ubiquitous petunia, very effective in planters and hanging baskets, combined well with shrubs such as spirea and pyracantha to good effect.

Many premises in the town had hanging baskets and other forms of planters.

Trees are the essence of urban landscaping and yet very few towns and villages have enough of them or in some cases may have too many.

Cappoquin has struck a balance when it comes to tree planting and it's good to note that most are flourishing particularly on the approach roads.

As was the case last year the GAA Club has an excellent planting arrangement at the entrance to the Grounds and the Garda Station, with its stand out copper beech, has similar standard arrangement in place.

Some excellent gardens were noted on the outskirts of the town particular on the incline out by Shanbally on the Mellary road, well done to the owners of these gardens for the effort they have made.

Work on the Grotto is progressing and one hopes to come back at a later date to see the end result.

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

The town has a myriad of natural habitats that would be the envy of most other places, that said the principle of good wildlife preservation is the same everywhere.

The work being done in Glenshalane Wood is noted and this in time will enhance that whole area which is a wonderful natural amenity to have on ones doorstep.

Mile Bhuiochas to the local camogie club for their assistance to ensure that litter is kept under control. "Take Litter Home" notices should be put in place to deter people from continuing this anti social and environmentally harming practice.

Have you considered getting both National and Secondary School children involved to develop a wild life project for the town proper that would be there for future generations?

The old slipway on the river off Mill Street might be a suitable place and advice could be sought from the local county Wildlife Ranger or equivalent.

A plan could then be put to Backwater Leader Group for funding of this local initiative.

### **Litter Control:**

For a town of its size the standard of litter control was quite good and the adjudicator is aware that the Committee has been very active in encouraging all sections of the community young and old to keep the town litter free.

Cigarette litter is major problem for all towns and villages and some establishments do their utmost to ensure that patrons do not litter outside premises others are indifferent such is life. Involving the school children is an excellent idea as kids, if encouraged, will make the effort to change, it's the adults that I would be more concerned about! Barrack Street for instance was litter free on adjudication day but further near the centre and off some back lanes plastic bottles and cans were observed. In time the voluntary litter pickers will be able to identify and target these black spots. The number of waste bins is sufficient and these are strategically placed around the town getting people to dispose of litter in a proper manner can be difficult.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This relatively new category confused people somewhat when it was first introduced a few years back. It is important category and committees need to inform themselves of the basic criteria. Race against Waste is a buzz phrase at the moment and information can be obtained from the excellent booklet available from the Dept of Environment or from the Race Against Waste website. What you have put in place is very much in line with what is recommended but there is so much more that can be done. Again a school project would be an ideal mechanism to get the youth involved and up to speed on the concept as well as contributing to the betterment of the town.

### **Tidiness:**

The standard in this category was a little mixed and again one is aware that the committee is doing its utmost to engage with the Waterford County Council to, renew signs that are shoddy, upgrade footpaths and road surfaces, and have unsightly wires re ducted underground. This is a long process and progress has been made queue the upgrading of some footpaths and kerbing. Last years report alluded to the disparity in the standard of road surfaces between Lismore and Cappoquin and wondered why this was so, I am sure some of your committee would have an answer! Be aware of the side areas and try and get these basics right, the other major infrastructural works mentioned will follow in time. Just to note that Bring Bank area was a little messy when visited and it is important to deter people from dropping bags of litter if the receptacles happened to be full.

### **Residential Areas:**

One had to be impressed with the efforts of residents of local housing developments both established and new. The Shanbally Estate on the Mellary Road was in tip top shape with the odd exception, it is obvious that residents are represented on your main committee. The Green area was well maintained complemented by some excellent planting arrangements; the name sign was most attractive in quality wrought iron with black and white contrast. Gort Dara on the Clashmore road is a well designed new development that will be an enhancement to the town in years to come. Residents in the Abbeyglen cul de sac estate also deserve to be mentioned for the manner in which they have maintained their properties. A new housing development is now sited on what was once the old Cappoquin Bacon Factory a sign of the accelerated change that occurred over the last 15 years.

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

The entrances into the town were impressive for the most part, road surfaces varied somewhat but signage was visible and clean and verges and hedgerows were treated in accordance with recommendations for the preservation of wildlife including consideration for the nesting season. I would recommend that you consider asking the Council to change the red Supervalu signs and replace with a variation of the new name sign that was observed at Shanbally Estate, the Supervalu logo can be incorporated into same.

The Lismore Road entrance was particularly impressive no doubt helped by the trees that are a legacy from landed estate times. The road surface was good and the footpath extends out to estate gates. Having a replica boat populated by colourful annuals recognises the association that Cappoquin has with boating on the Blackwater. The Dungarvan Road was also well maintained with good visibility for the driver, new footpaths that extend to the Affane Church Junction offer the local residents the opportunity to walk to the extremities of the town.

The Clashmore Road out by the Industrial Estate was acceptable but the road surface has suffered from the increased traffic load.

The Mellary Road was excellent and will be enhanced further in when the Grotto refurbishment is complete. The lack of street signs was mentioned in last years report and I would encourage you to lobby local public representatives to have this rectified as it would add so much to the town.

### **General Impression:**

As stated at the outset of this report it was nice to revisit Cappoquin and observe what has been achieved particularly in the last decade.

Progress has its downsides and there were a few changes that were not particularly in keeping with the structure of what in effect was planned estate town.

The Committee is very proactive in addressing contentious issues such as derelict properties and untidy frontages and side areas.

I would agree that the Town may not be realising its full potential in the Competition but to do that takes time and commitment from everybody and to be honest there are people who have no interest in TidyTowns or the sky over it.

You are making very good progress and do keep the momentum going.

You are wished well in the years ahead.