

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Fenor** Ref: **236**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **255**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	255

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the extremely well documented application form complete with very concise sketch map of the village and surrounding hinterland.

This was supplemented by a variety of material primarily on Fenor Bog which is synonymous with the area and is now part of new Coppercoast project.

As one who comes from an area that has a similar protected bog nature trail it would have been nice to have been able to explore with no time restrictions but one had to get on with the job in hand that of adjudicating the village in the overall context of TidyTowns. We will return on another occasion sooner rather than later.

Thank you for your positive comments about the TidyTowns competition and its importance to your community.

Your committee of 6 is hugely proactive in your approach to promoting the ethos of TidyTowns and this is reflected in the way the village looked on the day.

The relationships that you have forged with the local authority, other relevant agencies and most importantly your local community has helped you greatly in getting issues addressed and very positive reactions to your fundraising activities.

The National School, which is like many other schools in Waterford undergoing expansion, can be proud of the fact that it was the first school in Munster to gain Green Flag status and it is good to note that the school children are being involved in all aspects of your work.

The Built Environment:

The RC Church is the focal point of your beautifully maintained village and it is one of the best presented ecclesiastical buildings that this adjudicator has come across over the years of adjudicating TidyTowns. The colour scheme applied and boundary stone wall really draws ones attention to the building.

Compliments to all who help maintain the church its grounds and the adjoining graveyard.
The improvements mentioned undertaken in this general area of the village mentioned in your report were noted and your consideration for the disabled visitor is to be commended
The other ongoing work at the Bog entrance and at the well appointed GAA grounds were also noted and you are not resting on your laurels as the work planned for the year is extensive.
Mother McHughs, which is probably a haven for visitors in the summer season, was also well presented with nice seating in front, so well done to the owners.
Is the accompanying coffee shop called the Bog n Bean?
Overall your efforts in this category deserve an increase in mark on last year.

Landscaping:

This category is one in which the Village also has done well in and there were examples of the prudent use of trees and shrubs that blend in with the tree population that has existed for generations and afar.
These coupled with some very well structured floral planting arrangements like the stone beds opposite McHugh's and at the Church Wall and the arrangement the Failte sign as one enters from Annestown gives the village that special appeal.
You have resisted the urge or the need to over beautify the core area and the village is all the better for it.
Your plans for the future are noted and one hopes to come back in due course and witness the results of your endeavours.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It could have happily spent most of the day in Fenor Bog but as I stated in the introductory section duty called.
You are very fortunate that such an amenity is available to both the local community and to the visitor alike, as was put so eloquently in your submission the place is a store house of rare birds, plants and other forms of wild life.
The problems with the board walk documented in last years report have been resolved and it was very accessible.
The new signs and information boards were noted and the information piece on butterflies alone was very comprehensive.
The school children in the area are blessed to have such a nature paradise on their door step and more importantly they are being involved in related projects.
Well done to all on a very strong performance in this category.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good for what was a Sunday morning after the Saturday night before just a few wrappers and the odd plastic bottle were observed in a fairly large area surveyed.
The work being done by the committee to mobilise local people to become involved in daily clean ups is very praiseworthy and of course it's also paying dividends.
One can appreciate your concerns about involving kids on what is a very busy road especially during the peak holiday period.

Waste Minimisation:

This a comparatively new category that quite a lot of committees found hard to understand what the basic requirements were.
It is a category that can earn a community valuable marks in the competition as well as contributing to its main objective that of minimising waste by appropriate actions.
You as committee have embraced the concept and practical actions have been put in place to that help the Race Against Waste.
The Bottle Bank is well managed and the involvement of the National School in such practical projects as battery collection has contributed greatly to you getting a high mark.
The banning of crisps and soft drinks should also contribute to an improvement in the general fitness levels of the school kids.

Tidiness:

This is also a category that you have excelled in and the efforts that you have made on foot of last years report have been noted.
The ducting of cables underground would be a big bonus to the village, as it stands they are not that obtrusive

but it is something that you should constantly lobby about.

There are a few individual properties that were a little untidy but it would be churlish to penalise the remainder of the local population who have presented their premises to a very high standard because of a few. Keep up the focus on encouraging everybody to maintain properties to a presentable standard and if there are older citizens in the Village that find it hard to do this offer them help.

Residential Areas:

The Village is in reality the main concentrated residential area although with the proposal to build and additional 140 houses at the planning stage this will alter things in a fairly dramatic fashion.

Can a village as small and compact as Fenor sustain this type of development – one wonders!

As it stands all properties, barring one or two exceptions, had well maintained and well presented frontages and the often criticised boundary wall was not an issue in Fenor as those observed were in good condition. Efforts have been made to keep back and side areas respectable which is all that is required.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the village were very well maintained, signs were welcoming, clean and visible and side verges were tidy.

Boundary walls and gates were painted and added to the attractiveness of the extremities of the village so well done to all the property owners who went to the trouble of making good their premises.

General Impression:

It was this adjudicator's first visit to Fenor and one had to be impressed at the level of activity that both you the Committee and the community has undertaken to put your village to the forefront.

The Fenor Bog is one of a few of its kind in Ireland, the work that has been done to make it accessible to all people able bodied and those with different disabilities has been immense and for that you deserve immense credit.

The Village is not all about Fenor Bog as there are many other ongoing and planned activities that contribute so much to making it such a pleasant place to visit and no doubt live in.

The Committee has tackled contentious issues with sensitivity and it has played its part with neighbouring villages in promoting this part of County Waterford under the Copper Coast Project banner.

Well done to everybody that has helped in making this possible.