

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterford City** Ref: **1213**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **250**
Category: **H** Date(s): **06/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	40
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Waterford to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition following your first time entry last year. Thank you for your entry information and excellent map of the city and area. It is great that you have the support of Local Radio as good communications with the Waterford community in TidyTowns terms is essential. The talks to the Schools and the Workshops are really important aspects of your work and these initiatives can be repeated each year. Indeed your overall involvement with the Schools in Waterford is excellent. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan for the city was not included with your entry. For next year you might consider this. It will guide your work in respect of each adjudication category year by year. The adjudicator was surprised that the map of Waterford marked only four sites that the adjudicator was recommended to visit. All of these were visited on adjudication day. We look forward to the visit of the Tall Ships in 2011 following on their most successful visit a few years ago. Do remember that the TidyTowns Handbook gives great information and suggestions. Both new Committees and those who have been involved in the competition for some time will find this booklet really useful.

The Built Environment:

Waterford is really a most attractive and interesting city enhanced by the Quays and the associated maritime activity. From the north side the view across the river gives a wonderful impression of the impressive streetscape on the far side. Many of the original four storey buildings survive. The adjudicator admired the fact that the maritime history of the past is being preserved for future generations through the present ongoing restoration of the Crane on the Quays. The conservation works on Blackfriars Church and the recently completed work on St. John's Priory are helping to preserve a different historical legacy. One of the great things about Waterford is that it is succeeding in seeking out the potential of all aspects of the city's heritage for the enjoyment of the present and future generations. The view across the river from the city tells a different story and hopefully the present unsightly dereliction will be resolved in the not too distant future. The

Marina adds great interest to the main city thoroughfare and the walk along here taken by the adjudicator was really enjoyable. The William Vincent Wallace Plaza is a most successful amenity project and the use of timber decking here is totally appropriate and a little unusual. The wonderful beautifully maintained canopy of the Granville Hotel caught the eye and this structure adds so much to that side of the Quay. In contrast the canopy at Georges Court around the corner did not seem to be visually successful in design terms. It is not just older buildings that are a delight in Waterford. Some of the more recent developments are brave and successful in architectural terms. The B&Q building with the red high impact steelwork is one good example if many. The IDA premises was well landscaped and the Community Care Centre also was well presented compliment by good landscaping. On Catherine Street the Fire was admired as was the really good landscaping at the Regional Hospital. The many Waterford Civic Trust blue heritage plaques added much interest to a walkabout the city.

Landscaping:

It is great that a horticulturalist for the city has been appointed and this is indeed progressive. No other projects were noted in the entry form under this category. The landscaping of many of the roundabouts on approach roads is really excellent and the roundabouts at Ballycashin Butlerstown where just two of many examined. The Park one of the four projects highlighted for the adjudicator is a beautiful haven of peace in a busy and progressive city. Some of the gates here however needed to be painted and some graffiti was evident here. Hanging baskets, window boxes and flower planters noted in many parts of the city added further colour to a city that generally makes good use of colour in the built environment. Ballybricken Green another of the locations marked on the map supplied was excellently presented with good hard and soft landscaping working well together. This is a very attractive area high above the river.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The plans supplied for the Tramore Road Walkway were examined and the site was visited. This can be a really great project for the city and hopefully we will see some further progress in 2009. No other projects for this year were identified in the entry documentation. Has any consideration been given to the provision of wildlife information along the attractive walkway along the river?

Litter Control:

The litter Programme for the Secondary Schools sounds very interesting but the adjudicator would have liked some details of this together with further information on the National Schools Poster Competition. The Litter Rangers concept is excellent and imaginative. The adjudicator understood that the city takes part in the Gum Litter Task Force and this is a worthy programme as is the steps taken to have anti-dog fouling measures. Attractive litter bins were noted in many areas such as along the Quay. On a Sunday morning the adjudicator was impressed with the level of overall litter control following the previous night. Some litter of course was present but the problem was by no means serious. Some litter was present inside the white railing on the riverside walk and along Water Street near the Park entrance and along Ballybeg Drive where the situation was a little more serious.

Waste Minimisation:

The Community Workshops on waste minimisation and the talks to the Schools and the active Green Schools programme are all worthy initiatives that you have taken under this adjudication category. The adjudicator was extremely interested to read that in 2007 55% of waste has been diverted from landfill. This is a great achievement for Waterford. How is the Cotton Nappy Rental Scheme progressing? This is certainly an imaginative and creative project.

Tidiness:

The clean up days have obviously been successful and the targeted approach to graffiti is welcomed. On the day of adjudication some graffiti was noted but the problem did not appear to be too serious. The monitoring and hopefully the removal of illegal signage are other progressive measures. The repainting of street signs was welcomed. The Tidy Schools Competition is another good way of engaging the Schools in your environmental work. Have you considered a Junior Tidy Towns Committee? The major tidiness problem is of course the dereliction on the northern side of the river and hopefully there are plans to redevelop that extensive area. Near the Regional Sports Center roundabout a long blue hoarding needed to be repainted and some very long grass was noted on the Dungarvan approach on the left hand side. Along The Folly some kerb grass and weeds was noted

Residential Areas:

A selection of the estates in Waterford was visited and one point that was noted was the excellent landscaping at the entrance to many of the estates in Waterford. In Meadow Bank some poor verges were evident and good roadside grass at Clonard Park was appealing. Good landscaping at the entrance to Viewmount Park created a good first impression here. Poor road surfaces in Knockboy Heights needed urgent attention. Along

Vulcan Street some interesting door and window detailing on older properties was noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads together with The Quay and the Mall were quite well presented. Some very slippery flagstones when wet were noted on The Mall at the Theatre and near the Granville Hotel. The Barrow Street cobbles street leading up towards St. Michael's Street was very impressive. The street furniture and architectural detailing along here was admired. Off this main shopping area many narrow interesting laneways were explored and these are part of the attraction of Waterford City. However some of the smaller laneways were less well presented and that included John's Lane where graffiti and dumped bags of rubbish featured. The brass plaque at The Cross was most interesting and is another indication of your keen wish to preserve the heritage of the city.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure for your adjudicator to visit Waterford City and Environs and we wish you well with your projects for next year. This is a very attractive city with a great varied and interesting heritage. The adjudicator was very impressed this being the first visit that allowed a detailed examination of the area.