

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bunclody** Ref: **137**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **220**
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	220

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Bunclody to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition and it is really great to have you back for your second year. This was the adjudicator's first visit to the town and was at once impressed by the wide open area of The Mall. Thank you for the Entry Form and the local brochures which were very interesting. The adjudicator noted that a 3 Year TidyTowns Action Plan was not included and perhaps you might work on this for 2009. Basically this is a simple document that details year by year the projects that you wish to undertake each year. It is good also to include a cost estimate if there is a cost involved and an indication of agencies or organisations that might be involved in each project with your Committee. 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. With a Committee of 10 people the TidyTowns concept obviously enjoys good support in Bunclody and your Committee appears to be really active.

The Built Environment:

It was great to see that work on the new Golf Course was underway and this will attract many new visitors to the Bunclody area. The brochure on this that you included was really interesting. The Mall is of course the heart of the town and it is most attractive in that the two traffic lanes are separated by the landscaped and water features. From your entry the adjudicator understands that there are plans to clean out the water feature here and that would be an excellent project as some litter was noted in the river together with a traffic cone. In this area the stone containers with the colourful shrubs and the steel sculpture all make this area a very attractive one in the town centre. The Loftus Pharmacy on the corner is an attractive building and the Pharmacy frontage retains some original features that are most attractive. The D.J. Furlong & Co building across the road caught the eye as the old lettering here is really attractive and some good window and door detailing provide interesting architectural features. At the Fire Station some landscaping might be considered

and the freshly painted Bunclody Vocational School looked really well. Attractive grass areas complimented by beautiful trees highlighted the Catholic Church. The relatively new retail area at Carrigduff was visited and this area was well presented and some young landscaping appeared to be coming on well. At the Lady of Lourdes National School some weed growth at kerbing in the car parking area by the road was noted.

Landscaping:

The new shrubs and plants at Bia Alainn were much admired and the new planting on the Carlow road adds to this impressive approach road to Bunclody. The planting at the Library also caught the eye. Well done on your work for this year under the landscaping adjudication category. Elsewhere in the town hanging baskets were noted on a few premises and these added a nice dash of colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The central Park area is most attractive and the presentation of the grass here was really good. The old Millstone is an interesting feature and the seats would be improved if re-varnished. The new walks sound really interesting and hopefully the Golf Club and Fishing Club discussions will allow this project to proceed and we look forward to seeing progress for 2009. The Sli na Slainte Walk would compliment the other planned walks that you have in mind for Bunclody. Your entry noted a suggested glass case to highlight the local Flora and Fauna. The adjudicator wondered if this was the best approach and perhaps a waterproof display panel centrally located on The Mall might be more effective. Have you considered a simple wildlife survey of the area involving the Schools?

Litter Control:

Your monthly clean ups area great idea and that is a good way of introducing new potential helpers for Tidy Towns. The Bottle Bank was well presented by the second one at SuperValu did not seem to have been installed at the time of adjudication. There was evidence of litter in a number of areas that included the Carlow and Carnew approach roads. The litter on Hospital Hill was quite bad and litter was also present along The Mall. Your new litter signs were prominently displayed and certainly caught the eye. Some of the litter bins needed to be power washed and repainted.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the Schools that are working so hard to achieve their Green Flag status and the adjudicator wishes them every possible success. The leaflet to householders and businesses on waste minimisation is a great idea and this should contain a few practical ideas of projects that can be undertaken at home and business levels. You will find The Race Against Waste booklet really useful as it contains many ideas for consideration by your Committee. This is available from the Tidy Towns Unit. It is suggested that you take on just a few new projects in this adjudication category each year while continuing those from previous years.

Tidiness:

'The Keep Bunclody Tidy' signs were quite obvious and this is a good approach to try and raise the tidiness issue in the minds of the Bunclody community and visitors. The personal approach to business properties and organisations is the correct way forward to try and get action on individual problems. Hopefully the discussions on cabling will lead to a programme of under grounding. Advertising signage on the Carlow approach took away a little from the overall impact here. Have you considered having your field gates painted to a common colour scheme? Graffiti noted on the ESB sub-station at Termonbarry needed attention. On adjudication three large waste bins were present outside the exit gate from the Church grounds and these looked rather out of place. At the laneway a partially vandalised ESB meter box needed attention. The display of retail goods on the pavement was noted in a few parts of Bunclody and this is a practice that should really be discouraged.

Residential Areas:

Well presented properties were noted along Irish Street and parts of this street appear to date from 1908. Along Hospital Hill off Irish Street some very well presented houses were noted with excellently landscaped grounds. Termonbarry estate impressed with good grass areas and an interesting public sculpture. The adjudicator noted that you approach builders and developers on issues such as landscaping and this can be most effective. Castle Rock (of Deer Park?) seemed to be under construction on adjudication day and hopefully satisfactory provision has been made for landscaping. Oliver Plunkett Terrace impressed with some good landscaping that included attractive grass areas. However some kerb weeds needed attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are so important as they provide the first impression of a town or village for the visitor. On your main approach roads to Bunclody you are so lucky to have fine mature trees and in some cases really interesting old stone walls. However verges needed attention on the road to Enniscorthy and the Carlow road.

Hopefully the new off-street car parking site will be properly landscaped and made a real feature of Bunclody.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit your Bunclody for the first time. In your second year you have continued to make progress in the Competition. This adjudicator is of the view that Bunclody has the potential to do really well in the Competition over the coming years but a planned approach to your work is really important. Good luck with your TidyTowns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.