

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Camolin** Ref: **125**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **230**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form together with map which proved to be very helpful in identifying places with the town and its environs.

The excellent 3 year plan outlining what you have achieved and work actions over the coming years is both concise as well as been comprehensive and judging from the input under the different headings very achievable.

Thank you for your positive comments on the competition .

The Committee of four, which is comparatively small, for place the size of Camolin, has succeeded admirably in getting the community behind its efforts to project the town to greater heights in the competition.

Interaction between the Committee and the Local authority is important and you ace acknowledged this fact in your application.

The methodology to promote the TidyTowns work in Camolin is varied from Newsletter to involvement of both national and second level school children.

Credit is also due to the Community as a whole who support your fundraising activities.

The Built Environment:

Entering Camolin from Craanford gives the impression of a quite small town but that perception changes when on approaches the main street junction opposite Lamberts Service Station Forecourt, which may I add was well managed despite being so busy.

The main street was very congested with traffic both ways on the N11, I shudder to think what it is like in full holiday period.

That aside the standard of presentation under the built environment category was very good;some problems with older derelict or unoccupied buildings exist especially on the Gorey end of the town.

The public buildings both Churches, the well appointed National School, both sports grounds and Parish Hall were all presented to a high standard. It was noted that there are big plans to develop additional leisure facilities at sports ground near CLG Naoimh Padraig.

The following commercial premises appealed to the adjudicator for simplicity in presentation and management- Jack McDonalds Pub, Tom Doyle Ceramic Tiles, Jacks Tavern, the comparatively new Car Showrooms, the name of which eludes me, and the Garden Centre.

The removal of signage at the shop mentioned in your action plan was noted.

There are some many fine private residences within and on the outskirts of the town and again congratulations to the owners of these residences for their contributions towards the betterment of Camolin.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements in the town and its immediate surrounds were very appropriate. You have made good choices in trees, low maintenance shrubs and various colourful annuals and perennials.

The trees planted in the core of the town are a good example of urban landscaping not obtrusive and complemented by infrastructural works such as footpaths and bollards.

The colourful window boxes and planters in the town enhance it greatly.

There are some excellent private gardens and container planting displays in the village particularly on the outskirts.

The town landscaping could also be further improved upon by revitalising the area across from Lamberts Service Station and at the junction for Norrismount at the Gorey exit.

The latter maybe the area mentioned in your application for the development of a rockery with Irish nameplate.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that the Committee has varied plans for the future under the Wildlife and Natural Amenities category.

The practical work undertaken on the River Bann was noted this in itself is a major contribution to the encouragement of wildlife in the Camolin area

Involving children at a young age gives them a gift for life as they will be readily able to identify the value of different forms of wildlife

The Committee should consider, if it has not done so already, getting advice from the County Wildlife Ranger or equivalent person to help you with the future development of a nature trail.

The development of a Winter Feeding policy for wildlife is something that is a measure that encapsulates what the basics of wildlife preservation is all about so your are to commended on your foresight.

Litter Control:

Despite the fact that it is a very busy town with a heavy throughput of traffic the standard of litter control was very acceptable.

The committee has been proactive in promoting the message of good litter control and has certainly focused the minds of the local community on the need to keep the town litter free.

The ongoing litter patrols are paying dividends and the involvement of the young people is very encouraging.

It is noted that that you intend to get the Council to replace outdated bins I would suggest that you increase the number and have them placed in the outskirts as well as in the core area of the town.

Waste Minimisation:

Lots of good initiatives being undertaken and planned by the Committee which shows that you understand and embrace the concept that is waste minimisation

Ongoing reference to the Race Against Waste Publication or indeed web site will also give the Committee additional ideas for relevant projects that can be considered for the future.

Continue to explore these ideas as they will help the community to contribute to Better Waste Management.

One small negative to report this year, the recycling area on the Craanford road was a little untidy with waste bags being left at the side of the receptacles.

Maybe you could inform the public of this via your local newsletter.

Tidiness:

As mentioned in previous sections the town suffers from a heavy throughput of traffic so the traffic management can be a problem and simple activities such as crossing the street can be a bit awkward, Is it possible to get the local authority engineer to consider putting an additional zebra crossing, at Lamberts

Cross for want of a better description, to complement the existing light further down?

The few messy 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. Good to note the ongoing work being done in relation to the removal of unsightly poles and cables.

In your submission you mention the removal of improper signage – 7 separate auctioneers signs were noted on a telegraph pole at the road junction that leads to the Pines and there is a sign at Gorey exit which seems to be a legacy from the 70s. Both these need to be addressed.

Residential Areas:

The encouragement to local residents to maintain properties in good order has been successful as most were in tiptop shape.

The buildings in the main centre of the town, both commercial and private, have been well presented and it was noticeable that when the sun shone during the latter part of what was otherwise a hazy day that the mix of colours was seen to good effect.

The Cottages on the Craanford Road well maintained and vibrant as more residents have taken it upon themselves to paint premises and to provide colourful planters.

The work being done in Park Lane was noted and this will make for a more mature look to the area in future years ahead.

The Grove is an a good example of a maturing new housing development that w

St Moling Terrace residents are to be commended for the manner in which they have presented individual premises and the communal area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Craanford entrance as very impressive with excellent road surface and footpath extending outwards for a good distance from the town, signs on this road were clean and visible.

I would concur with last year's adjudicator that the road surface in the core area of the town was a little uneven.

Both main entrances on the N11 were acceptable as one would expect on a major link road from Dublin to Wexford and Waterford.

Name place, mileage and directional signs were clean and visible which, outside of the aesthetic value, is most important for the road user.

General Impression:

It was nice to revisit Camolin after many years and view the positive changes that have taken place in time.

The committee is a very proactive one and has been to the forefront in tackling issues of concern as well as encouraging and informing the community in equal measure.

Let's hope that you will be successful in your dealings with the dereliction issues which can be many ranging from absent landlords to downright disinterest on the part of some people.

One has to realise that not everyone is tuned into TidyTowns and a diplomatic approach is often needed to encourage people to come onside.

The committee has done a good job and is to be congratulated for its commitment to the cause.