

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Enniscorthy** Ref: **216**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **264**
Category: **E** Date(s): **01/07/2008**
22/07/2008

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	264

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Enniscorthy to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensive information on your work undertaken in the past year and the plans for the two major Enniscorthy projects. Enniscorthy is a most attractive town steeped in history and full of character. The steep roads and streets that rise above the river add to this sense of character. With a committee of 12 people it is obvious that TidyTowns enjoys good community support. The adjudicator notes that a 3 Year TidyTowns Plan was not submitted for Enniscorthy. This planned approach is strongly recommended. The Committee has a very busy meeting schedule and Enniscorthy in TidyTowns terms enjoys strong support from the appropriate agencies and organisations. The working relationship with the Schools is excellent and the three hour weekly Environmental Programme in St. Mary's CBS is an excellent initiative. In your documentation you made the point that your focus for the past few years has been on streetscapes and town buildings. This is critically important but do not lose sight of the other adjudication categories. 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:

The completed Barrack Street development provides a new focus for Enniscorthy and the contemporary approach adopted here in design terms was appreciated by the adjudicator and we look forward to seeing The Mall development. The J. Donohue Ltd development was examined and it is indeed an excellent building. Your approach to derelict sites with the Town Council is excellent and the proactive approach by the Town Council using the powers available to them is commended. It is great to see that the old Grain Silos are gone – what a difference to this part of town! There are many fine interesting buildings in Enniscorthy and the restored Court House is a credit to OPW who always do such a fine job. Near The Christ Alive Church the Shell Garage needed to be painted and the signage washed. Good landscaping was noted at The Library on

Parnell Street. The Bailey building with the stone facing commands a key location in the town and the combination of curved and straight elements here adds visual interest to the building. In Railway Square there is some potential for additional landscaping and tree planting in the central parking area. Enniscorthy Castle as viewed from Enniscorthy Bridge commands the higher ground and the Castle surroundings were well presented. Among other buildings admired by the adjudicator was the 1835 four storey Wexford VEC building near the Castle. Interesting windows and a bay window at Sofia's Choice stood out as did the very small and unusual windows on the building just beside on the uphill side.

Landscaping:

There are many small landscaped areas in Enniscorthy that add much to the quality of the built environment. These include the new work at Island Road / Irish Street and at the Fair Green. The Fair Green is a very attractive area and the plans for the area were examined in detail by the adjudicator. The plans are imaginative and creative and the adjudicator looks forward to their implementation. These look really excellent. It was good to visit the great Tour de France monument and it has been given such a great location. At the bottom of the Fair Green the large group of trees was admired. Well done on the results of the Osborne Road landscaping programme. The very large grass area opposite FR. Cullen Terrace had been excellently maintained. In Market Square hard and soft landscaping combine well to give an exciting town centre focus. The design of this area was skillfully handled as a number of differing street levels had to be considered. Here the hanging baskets and the flower tubs provide colour that works well with the Granite. Some retail lettering in Market Square appeared to be out of scale with the building façade. The flower boxes on the railing near AIB were admired. Have you considered painting all similar railings in Enniscorthy in an agreed colour? The mature landscaping at the grass area at Pig Market was visited and this is a relaxing area at the top of the town. Landscaping at the Cathedral grounds was of a high standard and the grass areas very well cut. At Duffry Hill hanging baskets and mature landscaping added much to this area at the upper level of Enniscorthy.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The new walk at Urrin adds to the enjoyment of the visitor to Enniscorthy and the Slaney River provides a haven for wildlife that was evident during the adjudication visits. Have you considered carrying out a survey of the wildlife of the Enniscorthy area perhaps involving the Schools? The follow on from that would be an examination of what can be done to make the area even more attractive for wildlife and retain the species that are presently here. The provision of public information on the wildlife here would be an additional step.

Litter Control:

The road sweeping programme for the environs of Enniscorthy is most impressive as is the work with the Gum Buster. Though litter was noted in a number of locations the regular sweeping reduces the scale of the problem. It is encouraging to see that the Local Authority is following a policy of fines for dumping where those involved are identified. This is progressive and strongly welcomed. Bad littering was noted along Ross Road in the general Meadowland Court area and along Irish Street litter was also evident. We would be interested for 2009 in hearing more of the Schools Anti-Litter Programme. On the morning of adjudication road sweepers were out at 8.30 am and the road sweeping machine was also in action.

Waste Minimisation:

The weekly cardboard collection makes a most positive contribution under this adjudication category. Thank you for the copy of the Waste Management leaflet which was most interesting. Unfortunately some of the projects that you identified under this category in your Entry Form do not come under waste minimisation. Do try and take on a few new projects in waste minimisation each year while continuing those from previous years. The three Workshops involving the Primary Schools were most positive initiatives and these could take place each year.

Tidiness:

Your deep concern with illegal dumping has been noted and the prosecution of offenders is essential where possible. The removal of 90 unauthorised signs is highly significant especially on the approach roads to Enniscorthy as is the removal of on-street advertising boards. The backs of buildings as viewed from Slaney place indicates a great need for painting as back areas are often the last to receive attention. The uprights at the railway bridge needed to be painted also. Watch out for weed growth as noted for example at the cobbles area by the entrance to the Waterside Car Park.

Residential Areas:

A number of estates in Enniscorthy were visited. The contracting out of the grass cutting at estates seems to be a good way of approaching this major task. Do make sure that as a rule all grass is removed on the day that it is cut. This problem was not however evident on adjudication day. Some of the new bilingual boulder estate name signs were seen and these looked well. The adjudicator supports fully your wish to encourage the setting up of new Residents Associations. Do you have an annual Tidy Estates Competition? Bad weed

growth at kerbing in Riverview estate needed attention but a good colour scheme here caught the eye. The extensive landscaping at the entrance to Marconi Park created a great first impression. Likewise at Belfield Springs the fine well cut grass at the entrance with the young trees was visually effective.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The many new bilingual street signs were seen everywhere and they are well designed and easily read. The Dublin Road N11 approach had good verges with some tall grass left for the needs of wildlife. The Blackstoops Roundabout was superbly landscaped and colourful but the boat needed to be repainted. Beyond this on the right hand side of the road the grass needed to be cut at the crash barrier. Along Ross Road some of the low banks looked a little rough. Excellent landscaping stood out at Belfield Design on Belfield Road. Along Nunnery Road some very good public landscaped areas caught the eye.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit your area for the first time. Good luck with your Tidy Towns projects for 2009 when we look forward to visiting you again.

Second Round Adjudication:

Enniscorthy looked well on the day of second adjudication also; the town has a rich cultural/social heritage as well as a valuable heritage in terms of the built environment. The overall layout and street pattern of the town with the gentle rise and fall of its streets add much to its aesthetic appeal.

Your litter management plans are acknowledged and as is the case with the first adjudicator or this adjudicator is interested in the outcome of the Schools Anti-Litter Programme. On the day of second adjudication litter was noted at the following locations; at the speed limit sign and the site of the nameplate on the New Ross entrance; in the Market Square and the green area at the Pig Market; quite a lot at the Bus Stop Shop and at the entrance to the River Walk near the Hotel car park. In some instances the problem appeared to be caused by overflowing litter bins, one was spotted at Abbey Quay and another at the entrance noted above to the River Walk.

With the exception of many service poles which were in need of refurbishment street furniture looked well.

Entrances to the town featured well-maintained grass margins, attractive nameplates and welcome signs. Flower displays throughout the town were admired for their colour and general arrangement. You are of course aware of the importance of planting native species where possible as this is supportive of wild life.

It was a real pleasure to note the wildlife of the river and how this was enjoyed by those people taking 'Time Out' to be in touch with nature in the midst of a bustling town. Well done on a fine presentation, this adjudicator looks forward to charting your progress in the competition as the various elements of your plan are implemented.