

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Grange Con** Ref: **825**
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **247**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Grange Con Tidy Towns Committee is commended for taking the advice of last years adjudicator with the provision of a clear, map photographs and a detailed submission of work completed and planned for the village. You have a sizeable committee of thirteen for a small village and are lauded for your ongoing work with residents, Wicklow County Council, Fás and Supervalu. It is encouraging to note that your success is drawing in sponsorship towards your projects and hopefully this is a trend that will continue. We look forward to seeing what is planned next year in your 4th programme for the village.

The Built Environment:

Grange Con is blessed with traditional stone walls which add character to the village. The village pump was crisply presented in blue. The Church and adjoining hall were pristine in appearance. The School, railings and grounds were admired for their fresh appearance however the boundary was should be repainted before next years competition - this was mentioned by last years adjudicator too! Kavanagh's and Moore's too looked well.

Landscaping:

The landscaped village stones on the Stratford-On-Slaney and Barronstown roads were most welcoming. A rose bed and marigolds added a welcome splash of colour at the statue of Our Lady. The landscaped areas on the Baltinglass approach road were immaculate in their presentation. There was an abundance of planters throughout the village in shades of pink and violet. The planting approaching Mallens Wood is a credit to those who maintain it - it looked wonderful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is considerable potential to achieve additional marks here and last years adjudicator described this in

great detail. Your ongoing research into the possibility of providing information on the wildlife and the history is eagerly awaited. You are highly commended for continued tree planting which is evident at various locations in and around Grange Con. An abundance of daisies were admired on the wall on the Barronstown Road.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good in Grange Con and a number of reasonably well maintained bins were noted. However there was a considerable amount of litter strewn throughout Mallen's Wood despite the presence of two bins (one was broken) perhaps the children of the estate could take responsibility for picking up litter and placing it in a bin? There was a considerable amount of cigarette butts around the seated area at Kavanaghs, there were no ashtrays in sight.

Waste Minimisation:

It is encouraging to note that the school is applying for Green Flag Status in September and hopefully this will have been achieved by TidyTowns 2009. If possible you should submit a detailed copy of the schools plan with next years entry. Thank you also for the sample form for your recycling survey - the results are encouraging. Your recycling of litter where possible has been noted.

Tidiness:

You have a number of stable yards in the village and the owners cannot be too highly praised on their clean fresh presentation. The paint on one of the sheds was beginning to flake however - a minor complaint. The canopy over the statue of Our Lady looked a little tired and should be repainted before next years competition. Please ensure that village signage is being cleaned regularly as it provides the 'first impression' of Grange Con.

Residential Areas:

Two tastefully finished new houses beside the school were particularly admired. A bungalow and the end of a long driveway with wonderfully maintained garden and hedge was noted on the Baltinglass road. A tiny garden to the fore of the residence facing the Stratford-On Slaney road was delightful. Many of the village residences were well painted and displayed an array of window boxes and hanging baskets. The three-storey residence on the Dunlavin road was admired as was the most substantial horse chestnut tree in the garden. Further up on this road a creeper clad bungalow reached the same high standard of presentation. There are a number of residences currently under construction and we look forward to their completion in the years to come. Mallens Wood looked well and the new green area was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Stratford-On Slaney road is neat and tidy in appearance and the road surface is quite good. The new fence and hedge are a great asset to the village. Please ensure that the hedges are trimmed back as far as the village sign as the one on the Baltinglass was obstructed. A new fence and planting was admired opposite the school. A freshly tarmaced path sweeping from the Stratford-On Slaney road to the Baltinglass road enhances the appearance of the area. The approach to Mallen's Wood looked great.

General Impression:

It has been a pleasure to visit Grange Con. You are continuing to gain marks steadily and it is hoped that this trend continues for many years to come.