

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Stratford-On-Slaney** Ref: **849**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **270**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>270</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Stratford-on-Slaney is most welcome to the TidyTowns Competition 2008 and the adjudicator is glad to report that the sun was shining for this year's adjudication! It is encouraging to note that you have retained established working relationships with Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Rural Partnership and of course your local Superval. The School seems to have a good grasp on environmental projects in that village and I've no doubt that this is of great assistance to your committee. You are commended on your 'year round' approach and it is good that the Competition is viewed in a positive light. You should really consider compiling a three year action plan for the village detailing aims and objectives over that period; otherwise you cannot gain extra marks in this section. It need only be a few pages long.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Church and grounds were greatly admired for their fresh neat appearance but as mentioned by last years adjudicator the adjoining building would benefit from a whitewash. The pump provides interest at the landscaped area at the crossroads and similarly the public seating was noted at a number of locations. Each of these too could do with a fresh coat of paint and you should consider a colour scheme of perhaps red and black which would compliment the flower beds and the wonderful new street lights. The St. John the Baptist Church was neat in appearance. Kelly's Stores and the Stratford Arms too looked well. The playground looked marvellous and the community hall appeared to be finished. Will it be painted by next year's competition? The School and grounds were admired however a fresh coat of paint would enhance its appearance.

### **Landscaping:**

Lengthy tracts of grassy verges are well maintained throughout Stratford-on-Slaney and this is clearly a full-time job! The scarlet geraniums and box hedging is a most welcoming focal point in the village. You seem to have a comprehensive programme of tree planting and this is commended. Rambling roses framing the

door of the School were particularly admired. Mature trees soften the streetscape.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Hopefully your application to the Heritage Council will be successful and this will lead in turn to increased marks in this section in the years to come. You indicate that some research has been conducted resulting in the identification of four key habitats. Please submit a copy of this with next year's application. Also any information you can provide on the proposed walking routes will be received with interest.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good on the day of adjudication however a few stray pieces were noted here and there. The bins in the main street and at the School were a little grubby in appearance and in time you should consider replacing these perhaps with new black ones to compliment the new street lighting.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is clear that the children of Stratford-on Slaney are the experts when it comes to waste minimisation. It is no wonder that they have retained their Green Flag status for six years! Well done! You mentioned that there is a litter pick in the village each morning, is the waste segregated and recycled? It is clear from your submission that each household is aware of the merits of minimisation and your committee are commended on the part they play in promoting this ethos. Undoubtedly the bring bank is a busy local facility.

### **Tidiness:**

The new street lighting is a great addition to the village. It was good to see the old-fashioned village signage in Stratford-on-Slaney however the paintwork was quite flaky in a number of locations. First impressions of many premises, commercial and residential are good however on closer inspection some disappoint. Boundary walls with staining were noted in a few places and this could easily be remedied by a fresh coat of paint. You mention in your application that you have a regular schedule for the removal of kerbside weeds, however, they were visible along the Main Street and to the fore of the residential area on the Grange Con road. The collapsed screening at the construction site is unfortunate and should be replaced if possible. Clearly Stratford-on-Slaney is primarily an agricultural area and some untidy yards are visible to the passer by and this is unfortunate. Having said this the many landscaped areas are exceptional in their presentation and for this you are highly commended.

### **Residential Areas:**

The terraced row in the village was admired and in particular the house with the porch and the adjoining one with an abundance of lillies. The newly built residence indicated on your map was nearing completion and is clearly being finished to a high standard. The village residence close to Kelly's certainly sets the standard with spotless tarmac and a freshly painted façade. A handsome Georgian residence beside the School was greatly admired. Finally we look forward to the completion of Winetavern Manor in the years to come.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The car park at the Community Hall was pristine. Some of the road surfaces in the village were uneven in places but this is probably as a result of the installation of the new street lights.

### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit Stratford-on-Slaney for the first time and you are congratulated on your continued success. No doubt with such a staunch troop of youngsters you'll be a force to contend with in the coming years!