

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Hacketstown** Ref: **39**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **228**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	228

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Hacketstown to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your completed entry form. Some of the information in the form was unclear. Unfortunately the map provided was of little help to the adjudicator; the scale was far too small and your various projects were not marked on it. Therefore some of your projects for this year may have been inadvertently missed. Your committee of 24 is extremely large by national standards but this is most positive as is your regular schedule of meetings during the year. Support for your important work appears to be quite strong and your community communications media are appropriate. A copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Hacketstown was not included and you might include this for next year. It is encouraging to read that you have the School involved in your work and do continue to develop this link.

The Built Environment:

The Hill building occupies a critical road junction location and the colour scheme works well and shows off the building to advantage. The graphics here are also good. Your upkeep work in the Graveyard was noted and the tarmacadam work here represents good progress. The Health Centre road boundary wall would be improved if painted and some landscaping here would be an improvement. The Credit Union Planning Permission Application of May 2008 was read. In the meantime, the front elevation and wall needed to be painted. On the Tinahely road the School painted white stood out and some additional landscaping here would be good for next year. On the other side of the road the long grass and weeds growing up around the old Petrol Pumps needed urgent attention. The mature shrubs and other planting at the Fire Station provided an attractive setting for this building. The planting at Colaiste Eoin was admired. The use of the Irish language at Tig Caollaide is commended and the lettering here is good. While the graphics at Arthur Kennedy are clear and distinct, the red brick front elevation does not fit especially well with the older village centre.

Landscaping:

The very attractive landscaped area at The Monument was greatly admired. The information panel here is of great interest and well produced. On the top of the low stone wall opposite the School the landscaped area here has much room for improvement as grass and weeds are beginning to take over. Even in its present state the area is quite attractive. The use of narrow landscaped kerb in enclosed areas in the centre of Hacketstown to break up parking areas works quite well. New Creeper planting is welcomed provided that it does not get out of control.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No projects were indicated for this year under this category though your future plans are quite interesting. Do try and get the School children involved in your future projects under this heading. The wildlife panel graphics at Marian Terrace need to be replaced.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your involvement in the Litter League and Pride of Place. Unfortunately litter control was extremely poor in Hacketstown on the day of the visit. Dumping was noted at the litter bin beside the Monument and the bin was overflowing. An old green litter bin in the landscaped area seemed to be no longer in use. Litter was present on the Tullow road near the Montessori School. Across the road from the Catholic Church a narrow laneway was very heavily littered and extremely untidy. Litter was also evident in the attractive landscaped area at the front of the Church. The Bring Centre itself was well presented but much litter was noted in this small area – what a contradiction. The approach road to Marian Terrace was littered and along Slate Row a very large quantity of litter was present beside, what looked like, an old Church. Bridge Street also had quantities of litter present.

Waste Minimisation:

Your entry indicated that you are encouraging the School in their Green project but did not indicate what you are doing for them. However, such support is most important. This category is also about reducing the amount of waste generated in Hacketstown. You should look at the possibilities here for next year.

Tidiness:

It was good to see that the old Telephone Box had been removed. The main tidiness problems noted were in respect of weed growth at the base of walls and at roadside kerbing. In some areas this was quite striking. Many old buildings need to be repainted or even receive some cosmetic attention. If you have problems with derelict buildings that you cannot resolve you should discuss these with the County Council.

Residential Areas:

Repainting at Water Street was noted in your entry form and the provision of picnic tables but you did not tell us where. The Mountain View / Main Street 'right of way' work is encouraging. Along the Tinahely road some very poor road boundary walls to private houses stood out. At Marian terrace the large green area would be improved with the provision of some trees. The landscaped area towards the Main Road is impressive.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most approach roads though reasonably well presented were not special by County standards. Do watch for verges that need to be cut or hedges that need trimming – but not in the March to August period (Wildlife Act). Village signage on approach roads should be clean and easily read and not obscured by vegetation.

General Impression:

This was a first time visit for the adjudicator to Hacketstown. Do get your 3 Year Plan underway as it will help your future planning. Good luck with all your future projects. We look forward to visiting you in 2010.