

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Old Leighlin** Ref: **774**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **201**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>201</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Old Leighlin to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. This was the adjudicator's first visit to the village and it was a most enjoyable experience. Thank you for the entry documentation. The map however lacked detail and did not appear to match the geography on the ground. The monthly meetings with the weekly work programmers provide a good structured approach to your work for Old Leighlin. You are enjoying good agency and sponsor support. The involvement of the School is appropriate and most important. No 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was included with the entry and you might let us have this for next year. This will guide your work over the period 2010 to 2012. The adjudicator really liked the advance signage that referred to Old Leighlin Ecclesiastical Village and this sets the place apart.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Graveyard wall appears to need major work and seems to be in real danger of collapse. Do make sure that the replacement wall replicates in detail the existing wall assuming that the present wall is the original. The GAA building was examined and the adjudicator wondered if this could be painted as it looked a little dull. The Community Centre was presented in a neat and tidy manner but surprisingly no signage was evident on the estate side which presumably is the main entrance. The attractive stone and lattice windows of Glendon's Bar demonstrated a local environmental understanding that was appreciated. The Cathedral and Graveyard were visited and what a most beautiful and peaceful place this really is. The Graveyard is superbly presented and grass was being cut at the time of the visit. The large white pub at the corner was really well presented and the recently painted walls and green gate looked splendid in the afternoon sun.

### **Landscaping:**

The planting of new hedging is welcomed and your ongoing work on maintenance was appreciated at various locations throughout Old Leighlin. Your future plans for work on biodiversity issues will hopefully come to

fruition for 2010. The beautiful old mature tree in the centre of the village provides a fine focus for the village and one wonders when it was planted and by whom? Very good planters were noted at the Cathedral entrance and one of them takes the eye away from the timber pole here. The car park at St Malaise Well was visited together with the Well. The seat at the well had a graffiti problem that needs urgent attention. In the car park the new table and low seats area was damaged and the paved area beside it seems to have some structures removed from it.

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

The projects listed under this category for this year in the entry form do not in fact come under the wildlife section but have been considered elsewhere. Beautiful bird song was appreciated in the Graveyard and one wonders if this area might be a focus for some wildlife research and the production of wildlife information panels about Old Leighlin?

#### **Litter Control:**

The monthly litter clean ups are important and on the day of adjudication litter control in Old Leighlin was very good and the only problem area was the Bring Centre at the car park. The anti-litter poster competition will hopefully proceed. The official signage was missing at the Bring Centre and there was a lot of litter and broken glass in front of the units. An abandoned sign pole laid on the ground at the timber fencing. This fencing would benefit from painting or other treatment. The litter bin in the car park was overflowing.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Apart from recycling have you got involved in any waste minimisation projects that would further help Old Leighlin? Fundamentally this section is about reducing the amount of waste generated in the village and then seeing what of the waste generated can go into recycling. You have taken one aspect of this category and need to work on the other.

#### **Tidiness:**

Good luck in Pride of Place in September. On the approach from Leighlinbridge, the Children Crossing sign has faded and faced the wrong direction. At the road bridge, below the Cathedral, graffiti on one of the Speed Limit signs needed attention.

#### **Residential Areas:**

It is obvious that the Residents Association in St Molaise estate is very active. Excellent landscaping introduces the visitor from the main road and this is effectively continued around the corner on both sides. Weed growth was noted in the car parking areas of some of the houses along the Johnduffswood road.

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

On the approach from Leighlinbridge some of the verges had been roughly cut while others were rather better present. Quantities of cut grass had not been removed on this road. Do remember that roadside hedges cannot be cut between March and August under the terms of the Wildlife Act. The cleaning of the two ditches that you mentioned was noted and examined. Very fine stone walls are a key feature on some of the approach roads especially that from St Molaise's Well side of the village.

#### **General Impression:**

Old Leighlin is a most attractive and really interesting village of great character that has the potential to do really well in future years in the Tidy Towns Competition. Good luck with your projects for next year.