

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Tullow** Ref: **48**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **274**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **21/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	36
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	36
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>274</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Tullow to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form, supporting documentation and excellent map. Your committee of nine appears to be quite busy with monthly meetings. You seem to enjoy good local support and support from the relevant agencies also. You are making good use of the print media and your visits to the Schools are a most important aspect of your annual work programme. The adjudicator understands that you are preparing a Draft 3 Year TidyTowns Plan for Tullow and we look forward to reading this next summer when we return. The TidyTowns information flyer made for interesting reading - how widely was this circulated?

### **The Built Environment:**

The new Fire Station building was examined opposite the Health Centre and both buildings were well presented. Though it opened last year, the new Tesco premises was also visited and the low elevation of this building was admired as it allows the building to sit down into the landscape. The landscaping here is good. The new wheelchair access to the Bank of Ireland is welcomed and this building would be improved if repainted for next year, especially the lower sections of the front facades. The plan to re-open the Abbey Graveyard is a big undertaking. The documentation mentioned a new Sculpture to the rear of Tesco and the adjudicator failed to find it, and did not see any signposts for this feature. Work hopefully will progress on derelict sites following the success on the inner relief road. At the Wynne premises the railing and gate needed to be painted. The large property at the bridge has a prominent location at a busy junction and the building really needed to be repainted. Some rationalisation of the signage on this building would improve the overall impact. The entrance area of the Brophy Agricultural Services needed to be tidied a little and the gates repainted. The roadside landscaping at Topaz caught the eye. Work was necessary at the entrance to the Loughmartin Business Park and weed growth needed to be controlled. Not many premises stand out in Tullow for the excellence of their retail frontage but the Henry Paton premises was well presented and the graphics

here are simple and effective. By the riverside the attractive Granite Museum building is rather unusual in that there are steps up to the doorway; this is an attractive site for a town Museum. Superb presentation was everywhere evident at Mount Wolseley and the landscaping is being really well maintained. Tots to Teens stands out on the Shillelagh Road for the imaginative roadside presentation. The Credit Union building is a fine contemporary structure where concrete walls, timber and glass work well together to give a very pleasing building. Graffiti was noted to the side of the building by the river.

### **Landscaping:**

The Park on Castledermot Road has a most attractive location and what a lovely area to spend a little time. The future projects that you have in mind will add significantly to the presentation of Tullow at a given time. The replanting at the Fire Station was examined and you are commended for the effort involved here. Good landscaping was noted on several roads and the Bunclody Road is one example. Really superb landscaping features at the bend in the road on Rathoe Road (the adjudicator is unsure of the spelling as the map was not clear in this regard). The landscaped area from Riverbank Restaurant down to Bridge Street is highly impressive and the fine mature trees add so much to the visual impact. The flower containers here were admired but why are there three blank poles at three flower containers? Throughout Tullow there are quite a number of incidental smaller landscaped areas that bring additional colour to the town. A good example is The Square where the planters here add much to the overall presentation.

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

Congratulations to the Schools and other organisations that have received their first Green Flag or are working towards the first flag, or an additional one. It is welcoming to see the Schools involved in this process. The Ducks were not seen on the Slaney River but the Swans were there to welcome the adjudicator! The wildlife panel on the riverbank before Bridge Street needed to be replaced. The timber river bridge here is an attractive structure that compliments the scene here perfectly. Have you considered a wildlife survey of the Tullow area?

### **Litter Control:**

It was good to read that sixteen estates were involved in the County Litter League and the town performance in coming 4th is a really excellent result. FAS were obviously doing a good job on litter control. Litter and bad graffiti features at Slaney View near the entrance, and on the Bunclody Road before the green town sign. Mount Aaron Court also had a sprinkling of litter here and there. It was regrettable to see litter in the river at the bridge. However, the biggest problem was in the centre of Tullow in The Square area. From the Bank of Ireland end down the street towards the bridge the problem was quite serious.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is great that the Recycling Centre has achieved longer opening and the collection of cardboard and waste paper for recycling is another great initiative. As part of your TidyTown Plan you should have a section on waste minimisation. It is suggested that you take two new actions each year on this and continue the actions from previous years.

### **Tidiness:**

Tidiness continues as a problem in Tullow and this arises to a great extent from the derelict or abandoned sites and properties. Signage clutter at the bridge and at the Carlow / Castledermot roads junction is another difficulty. Can you talk again to the Council about these issues? Opposite the entrance to Hawthorn Drive a very untidy area needed urgent attention. Some graffiti was noted on signage on the Bunclody approach road. At the Shillelagh / Dublin Road junction a very poorly presented old building needs urgent remedial attention. It provides a poor introduction to Tullow for people approaching from that side.

### **Residential Areas:**

Quite a number of the estates in Tullow were visited. The main problem that was noted was that of grass and weed growth at roadside kerbing. Verges were also overgrown. This was the situation at Rathsillan. The Creche area here however, was better presented. Graigowan would be improved by the provision of some additional tree and some good landscaping features at Slaney View. Beechwood Drive is excellently presented in every way and should act as a benchmark for all other estates in Tullow. A Granite house near the Abbey on the Bunclody Road was much admired and it is good to see local stone used. Some good modern developments were noted on the Ardtattin Road and Wolseley Village stands out here.

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

The presentation of approach roads was generally disappointing. Uncut banks and verges featured on some roads and this creates a poor first impression. On other roads tall grass at roadside walls caught the eye. It is suggested that you concentrate on a few of the approach roads each year and get them up to a high standard.

Do remember that hedges cannot be cut between March and August under the terms of the Wildlife Act. Watch out for weed growth at walls and at road, and street side kerbing.

**General Impression:**

Your committee has a large area to work on and the new TidyTowns Plan will be of great assistance to you. It should guide the work of every TidyTown Meeting. Good luck with your projects for next year.