

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charleville** Ref: **734**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **214**
Category: **D** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	214

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed Entry Form and map of the area. I feel you could provide more information on a map of Charleville which does not need to be too complicated. I note you have 20 committee members and you hold 15 meetings per year, and in fairness this takes up a lot of spare time. It is encouraging to get the support of the local companies, AIB, Dunnes Stores, The Credit Union, Ballyhoura Development Ltd., Park Hotel and Lucey Motors. There are lots of other companies, some substantial, that could hopefully be brought on board, because in all fairness Charleville is a busy country town covering a large area, which means a lot of work. I find in other locations that the Tidy Towns Committees do deals with some companies to enhance a particular area or street, and in this way the companies willingly subscribe, and this in turn provides some part-time employment, as it is unrealistic to expect large amounts of work to be done voluntarily. I agree that this is a good competition and it is pleasing to find that your committee are proud to be part of it.

The Spring Fair and Charleville show are great social occasions and well done to the various committees. I have looked over last year's adjudicators report and I agree with the comments, especially in relation to the lack of a three to five year plan. Planning is vital in all walks of life, and congratulations on your efforts to put this right by getting a plan in place for the 2010 competition. It is great to see the green flag proudly flying outside the CBS School, and you could encourage the other school to endeavour to get the same status. We know that some teachers have enough problems in the classroom, and you may be able to find a suitable person, perhaps someone retired, to assist the teachers. The community is well on its way to achieve a better environment when the children are made aware of the importance of such matters as treatment of waste, composting etc. As a start could I recommend to you to obtain a book written by Paddy Madden "The School Garden" what to do and when to do it.
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The Built Environment:

On a walk about the town I admired some wonderful buildings, most of them with a distinctive flavour. The schools show that the quality of workmanship is high. The Catholic Church is a building of defining architectural qualities, nicely landscaped and spotlessly clean. The mental health resource centre is visually striking. The Bank of Ireland has its' own unique character. JC Pettit Pharmacy is beautiful. AIB was festooned with great flower baskets and the actual building was crisp and fresh. Dunnes Stores and Super Valu retail outlets are very tastily designed and nestle in their positions very effectively. The old protestant church building has retained its original identity while the function of the building is now obviously different as a library. I liked Rainbows Hair studios. There are brightly coloured modern garage outlets on the Limerick road, but I feel some planting could be done here to lower the effect of the bright colours. The Kerry Co-Op offices and factory buildings display some great landscaping, but the yellow railing needs a fresh coat of paint and done in a softer colour. I was most disappointed at the De Valera School building which is a testament to a bygone and indeed romantic age, unfortunately it is now in very bad condition and lowers the tone of that area. Some shops cluttered up the footpaths with flower pots on display and some furniture items. The Park Hotel plays a prominent role on the Limerick road with ample parking spaces and good landscaping. There are a variety of well kept houses around the town and there are some elegant town houses.

Landscaping:

A bit more attention is needed for landscaping in Charleville, but I realise this is quite a large area, and almost impossible for your committee to keep on top of landscaping. I know that a plan is being drawn up and this will give you the guidelines to follow. Work is to enjoyed and it will then be rewarding, and could I, respectfully, suggest that the committee purchase a book called "Our Trees" ISBN 0 – 9518612 -5 -5, and I feel you will get some ideas and enjoyment from this publication. In fairness there is some nice landscaping in places, especially on the approach roads. The town park is a good facility and it is great to see a number of children enjoying themselves in the outdoors in the children's playground – well done to all concerned. There are some really fine trees around the town and outskirts. Some premises had their own hanging baskets and window boxes, and I feel that the town could benefit from some extra floral adornments, especially around the centre of the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note you intend to engage with the County Council to enlarge area for wildlife and put up posters, and also to clean up the Glen River. Your further plans for the people's park will greatly enhance this good green area. There is an abundance of wildlife in all those great trees around the area, and also in the hedging and stone walls. It could be rewarding to set up a sub-committee on wildlife as I feel there are several people around the area that spend most of their spare time amongst the wildlife.

Litter Control:

For the most part the control of litter is good, especially around the centre of the town, and I saw the litter warden working diligently emptying the litter bins. In outlying areas there were isolated bits of litter, and I understand that the warden and the tidy towns committee cannot be walking behind people picking up litter. People in general need to constantly reminded to be vigilant with litter, and it is very positive that you have the schools on board for the national spring clean up – well done.

Waste Minimisation:

The twelve recycling bins were being used on a continuous basis during my visit to the Lydl depot, and the people are helping to reduce the loads going to landfill. Unfortunately some people leave the cardboard containers, that they transported the bottles to site in, stored against the bins, and I wonder if another bin could be provided to cater for this packaging. The students from the CBS will have a more positive approach to waste now that they have been started in the right direction by the green flag status. I notice that you are engaging with Foróige and cubs/scouts. Some local people obviously compost waste, and a campaign could be started to promote this procedure on a widespread basis.

Tidiness:

In general the town was tidy with all the approach roads and town centre footpaths and kerbing free of weeds. The real black spot was the De Valera School and that area in general. The derelict site on the Limerick road, at the corner, outside the Kerry offices, and facing the church, is obviously a prime site and even in this depressed market for property it is a valuable site; but it creates a bad image being so prominent and it should be properly fenced off, or screened off with shrubs and trees. On the Kilmallock road there is a site for lease across the road from the Kerry factory, it has been renewed and looks wonderful, and this shows what can be achieved. There are a few derelict houses in the town, but I understand there is little you can do with such private property.

Residential Areas:

The houses in the estates are, for the most part, very well maintained with great displays of flowers, shrubs,

trees and lawns, therefore, the local committees that you have encouraged are working well. There are some spectacular houses along the main street, especially the beauty alongside the Bank of Ireland and many others set in tranquil and serene situations. The best estates that I could recognise were Lios na Ri, Glen Haven and Meadow Vale. In some locations there are competitions organised for the best kept estates and this encourages a pride of place attitude. The thatched house on the Dromcollogher road is beautiful and retains its original identity.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The small finger signposting is helpful and attractive. The signposting for the local and national directions is very good and well maintained. There is a huge amount of traffic passing through this town, and it is managed as well as possible, but one gets the impression that this traffic could be diverted with a larger bypass. All the road surfaces that I observed are in good condition. There is good use made of the old back streets, and lots of space provided for parking. I really like the road from the Golf Club as it gives a good impression of what is to follow further into town, and there is magnificent landscaping done mainly by the householders, and of course some done by your committee.

General Impression:

Your committee is making steady progress, but I feel you need a lot more support. I look forward to visiting Charleville again, and I know you can climb up the marks stakes with greater co-operation all round. Well done.