

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Youghal** Ref: **600**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **272**  
Category: **E** Date(s): **29/06/2009**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 45                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 36                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 39                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 28                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 33                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 9                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 14                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 28                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 32                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 8                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>272</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the typed up entry form and indeed thanks also for the maps of the area and substantial amount of support material. I note you have 26 committee members. You are holding a lot of committee meetings per year and this indicates a good level of voluntary support for your endeavours. You have listed an impressive list of agencies and bodies that support you. The local people are well informed on your plans and activities in a few ways. Your contact with the schools on six different contexts is very worthwhile. We are pleased that you find that your experience of the competition is very good. Good luck with the triathlon on the 18th July. All of this means you have a very good overall development approach.

### **The Built Environment:**

Youghal has developed in an orderly fashion with new enterprises blending in well with the traditional town business houses. You list fourteen projects that are undertaking this year, and I find that you have some more ambitious future plans and when all of these plans are implemented your town will be much further improved. This is a busy sea-side town rich in heritage. I headed for the visitor centre and met Katrina there who was most helpful and she gave me a copy of the heritage trail that I followed and saw some great heritage sights. The first two buildings that I admired were The Visitor Centre and Youghal town council offices and these buildings are beautiful, and although the function of these buildings has changed from their original use they have broadly retained their original identity. Market square is supreme and I admired there the cut-stone feature in honour of the piper Danny (Dúis) McCarthy (1914-1983). Scoil Gael, Choráin Eoghail is a most attractive school building and sported impressive railings and piers. Devonshire Arms (for Sale) is a historical structure. Methodist Church and St Mary's Church are visually striking and very well maintained and I admired Our Lady of the Rosary Church on the Cork road and a local lady told me that the gravel for its construction came from her father's place in Killeagh! I visited Clock Gate, The Red House, Tynte's Castle and the most impressive St Mary's Collegiate Church, but entry to the latter was prohibited because some structural work is

ongoing there, and these are places of unique character. Although I did not fully follow the heritage trail many other interesting places were admired. The shops were all busy in well developed and attractive buildings and I could not detect any signs of the recession on my trip around the town in the last days of June. Along the dock areas especially in Buttimer's dock and Harvey's dock I felt that some suitable protective structures could be put in to avoid people accidentally falling into the docks, and I personally feel that safety could over-ride aesthetics.

### **Landscaping:**

There is great attention paid to landscaping in Youghal especially in the Memorial Green Park. Your Youghal Tidy Towns Committee National Tidy Towns Competition 2009 booklet is a magnificent production, as it gives great descriptions of this most picturesque town. This is a very useful handbook for the adjudicator with excellent photographs, and it was exciting for me to find the different locations and admire the splendour - well done. There are some excellent displays of wildflowers in some areas, notably, red valerian growing out of traditional stone walls.

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

The Wildlife Wonders of Youghal is a most interesting booklet with great illustrations of the fauna and flora of the area. I note you plan to complete a wildlife survey and implement its results this year. It is interesting to learn that a wildlife walk is currently being developed from Youghal to Redbarn along the former railway track. I could not identify this walk on my visit, but I did see a walk that starts at the side of the recycling depot and swings along back towards the dock area. This had a rough stone surface not that suited to walking and had lots of vegetation of all kinds with lots of briars. I felt that this walkway could be improved considerably with a careful treatment of chemicals such as roundup and grazon 90.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter was well controlled, with only isolated bits to be found on the road to the recycling centre, on the Cork road near the church, down by the docks area plus isolated other quite small bits. I realise that some of this litter could come from passing motorists and doubt if much of it was discarded by local people who obviously have a pride of place attitude to Youghal. The centre of the town was almost litter free and was been tidied up by a gentleman. I read your comprehensive litter management plan 2006 – 2009 which indicates that a lot of attention is paid to this topic.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

In my trip around the town I noticed that different material, notably a mattress and lots of other items, some in plastic bags, were dumped at the back of the old Youghal carpet's building, and I was quite surprised to find this. I got speaking to a local man about this situation and he told me that such dumping was happening in other areas as well since the new entry fee of €3 to the recycling depot was introduced in February last? He further stated that he has to pay now since the recycling bins are only at the centre, and are no longer at locations around the town. I did not see these other areas that he mentioned, but I went out to the recycling depot which was quite busy with people bringing out their recyclables. The large depot and landfill was clean and orderly.

This category is about waste minimisation, and this starts in the schools when the green flag status is achieved and the teachers, children and their parents get education on the best practice. I note you state that schools initiatives advocating recycling and waste segregation has been completed, but here I am unsure if this in connection with green flag programmes?

### **Tidiness:**

The town was orderly and tidy especially in the centre of the town. The kerbs were free of weeds and well swept. I have already mentioned under waste what I saw at the back of Youghal carpets, and I felt that in the interim until something definite happens to this building the back area could be boarded up. I am not sure if the walk starting at the dump is under the control of the tidy towns group, but it needs some attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are good name signs for the estates, and an excellent example of this is the stone sign for Dr Kennedy Place. These estates are generally well kept areas with some very attractive landscaping increasing to excellent in some places. The traditional town houses are, for the most part, very well presented with attractive colour schemes and I admired beautiful hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs of flowers at these houses. But there are several private houses around the town that are in wonderful condition with brilliant displays of flowers, shrubs, trees and hedging and all of these houses bolster the public flora to show off the town at its best. There is a bungalow at the back of St Mary's Collegiate across from a small car park (the wall is falling up a bit further) that has exceptional landscaping to the front where the house nestles peacefully on the side of a hill.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Generally speaking, the roads that I travelled on around Youghal are in good condition. The road signs are clean and distinct. There are great footpaths that lead out long distances from the town centre that are weed free and many people were out walking here on a nice sunny day. The roadside verges on entering the town are very well maintained with neatly trimmed grass and one gets a welcoming feeling at the glorious landscaping at the roundabouts and in along the road to the town. The road to the recycling centre is in need of attention.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Youghal and spend a few hours travelling all around the town. It is about ten years since I last visited this town and you have made great improvements to get it up to the high standard that it now enjoys. I was impressed with the way the back areas have been developed. Thank you for the great effort you made with the presentation of your application. Well done.