

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Derrinturn** Ref: **1209**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **231**
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	231

Overall Development Approach:

Derrinturn is welcome to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission including your press clippings, photographs and annotated map which was very helpful on adjudication day. The hand drawn map showing the wider context of the village and the sli na slainte route was also well drawn and we appreciate your efforts in producing this. Well done in recruiting more members to help on your committee. We note the number involved in your committee has increased from 6 to 10 since last year's entry. Your schedule of meetings is impressive and we see from your photographs that you have been successful in enlisting volunteers to aid in tasks such as the installation of the village name stones. You have a wide range of bodies that you consult with and we find that the successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that have succeeded in harnessing the support and skills of a number of different agencies and so can gain from their input and experience. You have a well thought out publicity strategy. We hope your public meetings have been well attended. Keep up the contact with the green schools as this seems to have been a successful partnership for you.

The Built Environment:

Derrinturn has seen a lot of expansion over the past numbers of years which must have greatly increased its population. The commercial premises at the heart of the village were well presented with the Turn Inn and the funeral directors looking well. The new commercial development containing Lucan Racing was also tidy. Ensure the covered access to the rear car park is kept swept and clear of litter and graffiti as this could become a problem area. The Costcutters supermarket was marred somewhat by the number of above fascia signs. This issue was noted in previous years reports. Also the temporary fluorescent signs in the upper floor windows here were poor and contributed to the overall cluttered feel of the shop front. The hanging baskets here were good to see as an effort at brightening up the shop but we feel more work needs to be done here to improve presentation. Again the church was well kept and the grounds looked well. The new named boulders

were in place and well done in completing this project. The school grounds were looking well as were the colourful planters by the community hall. Good luck in your planned projects in this category.

Landscaping:

Your tree planting plans are to be congratulated as they will provide a real landscape structure for your village in the future. This is especially important in a village such as yours which has a large number of relatively new developments. We note the difficulties you have had in maintaining new landscape areas and the difficulties with new tree planting being vandalised. This is disheartening but keep up the good work. If budget allows try to plant larger trees which may be harder for vandals to damage. As part of next years submission can you include photographs of the spring colour provided by the daffodil planting programme you undertook? There was a dead tree on the main street at the school warden sign. This should be removed. The ivy planted to the concrete post and panel wall should reduce the impact of this boundary as seen from the street. Try to plant more native style climbers as the variagated ivy may look a little gardenesque here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The schedule for your school as included in your submission was an impressive list of actions to enhance your village and involve the children in increasing the areas biodiversity. We would be very interested to know how the programme of taking cuttings from shrubs worked out. Will they be ready for a bring and buy sale next year? This is a great initiative that also can be considered in the waste minimisation section as it encourages the local production of plant material. Try to encourage them to take mostly native plant cuttings or those plants that are seed or berry bearing, to further increase biodiversity in the area. We encourage the broadening of your knowledge in this area by your attendance at a biodiversity day run by the local authority. The display of work on the wildlife of Kildare by the local pupils, as displayed on the notice board in the school was excellent.

Good luck in the plan to establish a wildflower meadow by the school. Another area that could be considered for a wildflower meadow is some of the undeveloped phases of the housing areas in the village. With the current climate some of the housing estates may not be completed as soon as originally thought. One possible solution for this is to consider turning some of these undeveloped site areas into meadows. The sites could be skimmed with topsoil and planted in wild meadow seeds. This means that with relatively little investment on the part of the builders, the biodiversity of the site and its appearance can be improved while allowing the site to remain open to development, as this is a short term solution. Maybe you could approach the developers with this approach if parts of the site are to remained undeveloped for the next few seasons.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on adjudication day with no obvious litter and the new litter bins were well maintained. You say in your submission that a local student helped in this category as part of this work for the Gaisce award. How did they contribute? Was it as part of the litter patrols or more in depth work? If there is not room on the printed application form to fully elaborate on issues in each category we would encourage you to fill in the online application. This allows greater room for you to fill out the sections. We hope you have secured a new location for your bottle bank by next year. The clothes bank at the Carbury Tyre centre was free of rubbish.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to your school on their green flag. The segregation of waste being carried out by households is good to see. Have you progressed with any further ideas to promote the aims of waste minimisation? The aim of this is to move beyond just collecting litter and to take steps to actually reduce the production of waste in your community. A bring sale was mentioned in relation to selling on plant clippings done by the school children. A bring sale is a very effective way to give items that may have been thrown away by one household, a new lease of life in another household. This kind of sale may already be happening in your community or as part of the GAA fundraising and can be include in this category. Keep copies of all newsletter and press mentions of your waste minimisation plans so that these can be submitted as part of next year's submission to increase your marks in this area. Continue with your efforts at composting.

Tidiness:

The village was generally tidy and well presented. As noted there is an issue with the extent of signage at some shops but we see you are approaching local business to try to resolve this issue and so improve the presentation of some of the commercial areas. The play area in Ashgrove was looking well but was marred by the blue container. This was noted in last years report. What is its function and can it be removed or replaced with a more suitable structure for this residential open space? The advertisement signs for Ballyshannon Manor and Newbury Park are beginning to look aged and worn. As they may be up longer than originally intended you should ensure that they are upgraded or removed if they become an eyesore. Try to prevent

new signs being placed over the original sign as this is giving them a haphazard appearance. The derelict cottage on the main street should have the grass in the front areas cut to improve its appearance, in the short term, until it is developed.

Residential Areas:

Both the older established and newer housing areas were presented well. Your efforts at planting native trees in communal areas were noted. We would encourage you to ensure developers replace any dead trees planted to the open spaces at Cluain Dara and Newbury. The open space at Ashmount was well looked after given its prominent position as seen from the main street. Perhaps a hedge using native species could be established along the inner boundary wall and railing here to further green up the boundary.

Derrinturn Mews was a discreet find and the area of landscape was obviously tended by the residents.

The large area of open space to the front of Trinity Crescent was kept well and the new trees planted here will really add to the space as they mature. The scale of the space means it could take additional trees with the aim of establishing a real wooded boundary to the housing here.

We wish you well with your best garden competition for 2009. Let us know how this progressed and we hope you get a healthy number of entries.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We note the issues with regard to the upgrading of the sli na slainte route and the access for pedestrians along the Windmill Road. Thank you for your press cuttings as this gave us an insight as to how you are using the press to champion your cause and to put pressure on the relevant authorities to act on this issue. Good luck with your efforts here.

Some signage on the approach road were lopsided and in need of attention. You say in your submission that you are working with Kildare County Council to address this issue. Ensure all signs are clear and legible and cut back any roadside vegetation that is obscuring them. Your new stone signs at the entrance to the village and at the Windmill Cross were admired.

General Impression:

You seem to be dealing with the challenging issues facing your community well. The issue of vandalism is a difficult one to resolve and can be so disheartening to a voluntary group when time and effort put into a project is seen as being wasted due to mindless vandalism. Try to ensure any works done by your group are well advertised as being done by the community for the community. Your submission and our visit have demonstrated the commitment shown by your group in planned projects and in the works on the ground. Continued good luck in your efforts in 2010.